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The World's Daily Newspaper

omy of a Play

London, Tuesday, March 31, 1998

# **Swiss Contesting** Scope of Accord **Over Holocaust**

'Global Settlement' Too Broad, Banking Officials Now Say; National Bitterness Rising

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

ZURICH - Days after Switzerland's main banks agreed in New York to negotiate a settlement with Holocaust victims, significant differences have begun to eolerge over the scope of the accord.

While the agreement reached Thursday was portrayed in New York as a "global settlement," Swiss banking officials said that its prime focus would be more limited, centering on the question of bank ac-counts left untouched since World War II,

The distinction is important because it underscores the reluctance not only of Swiss banks but also of the Swiss government, the Swiss National Bank and many other institutions here to be drawn into a multibilliondollar compensation fund for a far broader range of Holocaust loss - such as compensation for looted assets stashed in Switzerland by the Nazis and profits deposited by companies using slave labor.

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The newest agreement, struck in an attempt by the hig three Swiss hanks to avert sanctions by American city and state governments, aroused anger in Switzer-

Many Swiss, people here said, now feel that the demands being made of them by U.S. Jewish organizations go beyond all justification, deepening a feeling that Switzerland as a whole, not just its banks, is being blackmailed.

"Today, that is quite a common word," said Martin Rosenfeld, a lawyer in Bern, who is secretary-general of the Swiss Association of Jewish Communities, representing the country's 18,000 Jews.

The target for some anger, moreover, is not only American Jewish organizations hut also Swiss Jews, said Rolf Bloch, who administers a \$180 million fund set up last year to help needy Holocaust survivors.

There is a certain animosity, a certain resentment, a certain feeling against Jews in general and also against Swiss Jews," he said.

And, in a marked break with a one-time tradition of

loyalty to their banks, some Swiss commentators have begun to accuse the banks themselves of acting rashly, setting a precedent in New York that will encourage pressures on other institutions, such as insurance companies and industries, and even gambling away what one newspaper called "Swiss dignity" for the sake of their balance sheets.

"This strived-for 'global' solution for the partial interests of the hig banks in America leaves the global interests of Switzerland out of the picture." said the conservative newspaper Neue Zuercher Zeitung. And this is what could lead to the next potential

See SWISS, Page 6



WILD KINGDOM - President Bill Clinton and his wife, African tour, Mr. Clinton has been offering a partnership,

Hillary, watching elephants Monday in Botswana. In his but some nations, like South Africa, are wary. Page 9.

# Britons Lament the Loss of Rolls-Royce

By Edmund L. Andrews New York Times Service

FRANKFURT -- Rolls-Royce, Britain's manufacturer of handburnished luxury automobiles and a cherished symbol of national pride, is about to be sold to BMW, the German car company.

The company's current owner, Vickers, announced Monday that BMW had submitted a top hid of £340 million (\$570 million) in a sixmonth auction. The hig losing hidder was Volkswagen, followed by a British investment firm and a dismayed consortium of Rolls-Royce enthusiasts who had hoped to rescue their beloved company from

If the sale is consummated as planned, Britain's last domestic automobile manufacturer will be in foreign hands. Ford Motor Co. acquired Jaguar and Aston-Martin in the 1980s, and BMW acquired

British loyalists to Rolls-Royce proclaimed themselves shocked and in grief, and some vowed to fight back with a higher offer. BMW makes nice little cars, but they are not luxury cars,"

snorted Michael Schimptom, who heads one of two groups of Rolls-Royce fans and had been trying to assemble his own bid when he got

See ROLLS, Page 6



Graham Morris, chief executive of Rolls-Royce, with a Silver Seraph on Monday. BMW is to buy the British company.

# **EU Opens Talks** On Expansion; A Symbolic End To East-West Rift

Adding Ex-Communists to Union Would Create Common Market A Half-Billion People Strong

> By Barry James International Heraki Tribune

BRUSSELS - In its second milestone in less than a week, the European Union formally opened negotiations Monday aimed at bringing up to 10 former Communist nations in from the cold.

Foreign ministers from the East and Central European nations plus divided Cyprus met with their 15 EU counterparts to initiate the enlargement process.

The measure, coming on top of the European Commission's recommendation last week to admit 11 nations to a new single currency zone, is aimed at giving the EU a new momentum and erasing the division that fell across the Continent after World War

The process will turn the EU into a market of a halfhillion people producing more than 20 percent of the world's goods, but it will also bring to present and future members wrenching problems of adaptation.

After the ceremonial opening of the negotiations, five former Communist countries - the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia remained behind for more substantive talks Tuesday. Five other countries — Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia — are on the back burner until their economic and political institutions are judged robust enough for EU membership.

Heads of government decided on this two-tier approach at a meeting in Luxembourg in December. They said then that the second-tier countries could join the front rank if they quickly made the required

Today we are starting the process of finally putting behind us the division of Europe into East and West which has scarred Europe for the last half of this century," said Rohin Conk, the British foreign secretury and president of the meeting.

Bronislaw Geremek, the foreign minister of Poland said the expansion of the EU would bring added responsibilities for Continental and global order and would require tough economic adjustments. But, he added, "the people of Poland have been waiting for this for a long time."

His Czech counterpart, Jaroslav Sedivy, said his country was assuming its rightful place at the heart of Europe, a place from which it was excluded because of historical events and communism.

In increasing its population by 50 percent, the EU will have to put its own house in order, officials said. At stake is an unwieldy system of farm support known as the Common Agricultural Policy and the shifting of resources from richer to poorer regions through so-Portugal that have received such funds will suddenly find themselves in competition with even poorer couotries to the East. Even Germany is demanding relief from its position as the largest net contributer to the EU budget.

Nevertheless, the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, welcomed the enlargement as a chance to spread "peace, democratic stability and prosperity across all of Europe.

The EU has expanded in stages from six founder members over more than 40 years in line with its philosophy that the organization is open to all democratic European countries. By opening talks with Cyprus, the EU is stretching its rules oever to admit a country with an unresolved border dispute.

Officials said Cyprus was qualified for membership

Economic Woes

Mount in Japan,

Raising Chances

Of Tax-Cut Cure

TOKYO - Clouds over the Japanese

economy darkened Monday as February

industrial production fell further than ex-

pected and output forecasts for the com-

The data are expected to increase pres-

sure on Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashi-

moto and the governing Liberal Demo-

cratic Party to step up plans to cut taxes. Mr. Hashimoto signaled Monday that he

Considering the present occasioo. I

ng months showed no relief ahead.

See EU, Page 6

# Appealing for Asylum, 12 Crash Into UN's Offices in Malaysia

By Thomas Fuller rnational Herald Tribuna

KUALA LUMPUR - In a desperate attempt to avoid being sent back to Indonesia, 12 asylum seekers crashed a truck through the gates of a United Nations office here Monday us Malaysia deported nearly 1,500 more illegal immigrants.

The police cordoned off the area around the offices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, but said they would not enter the compound, citing diplomatic immunity. Speaking from inside the compound.

Goufried Koefoer, head of the bigh commissioner's office in Kuala Lumpur, said there were 14 people in the truck, 2 of them residents of Malaysia. The 12 others were being interviewed to see if they qualified for refugee

The asylum attempt further complicates Malaysia's efforts to rid the country of thousands of illegal immigrants, most of them from

Sadako Ogata, the High Commissioner for Refugees, on Monday urged Malaysia to stop deporting refugees from the separatist Indonesian regioo of Aceh, saying that genuine

refugees in need of international protection might be among those sent back.

[The Malaysian Parliament rejected a motioo to discuss political refugees and last week's riots. The Associated Press reported. Ong Tee Keat, deputy speaker of the lower house, insisted that the matter was not urgent. The Bernama news agency quoted Mr. Ong as having said that all those who have been deported were in the country illegally and that the question of political refugee status would not be addressed.

On Thursday, Indonesians at a detention center outside Kuala Lumpur rioted, huming

down half the complex and killing a police officer with metal rods and sharpened pieces of wood. The police retaliated, killing at least eight of the inmates.

Despite the violence, Kuala Lumpur has vowed to speed up the deportation program. Malaysian police sent home more than 500 Indonesians on Monday and 1.133 oo Sat-

The government estimates that there are 800.000 illegal foreign workers in Malaysia. The 12 asylum seekers told UN officials they

See MALAYSIA, Page 6

# Permanently Temporary

# **High-Tech Firms Rely on New Working Class**

By Steven Greenhouse New York Times Service

REDMOND, Washington -- They hold high-prestige, high-technology johs at Microsoft's plush campus. They often do the same work as the Microsoft Corp.'s permanent employees, devel-CD-ROMs, designing World Wide Web sites and writing software manuals. Yet they do not qualify for Microsoft's coveted stock opoons, and their health and vacation beoefits are pale imitations of those enjoyed by regular Microsoft workers.

They are long-term temps - a seeming oxymoron, but in fact a new and growing pheoomenoo in the American work force, emhraced by many corporatioos, especially high-tech ones, including Microsoft, AT&T. Intel, Hewlett-Packard and Microsoft's Seattle

oeighbor, Boeing. In this era of intense competition and change, management theorists have recommended that corporations stick to their core capabilities and maintain core work forces. The corollary is that

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companies should hire out for noncore activities.

In 1986, the number of temps employed each day in the United States was 800,000, hut, according to the National Association of Temporary and Staffing Services, the number soured to 2.5 million last year or about 2 percent of the work force. At least 200,000 of them are long-term temps.

By some estimates, temps now represent at least 10 percent of the work force at one-fifth of U.S. corporations. Microsoft is perhaps the leading practitioner of the trend toward long-term temps, employing about 5,000 temps, including 1,500 loog-temp ones — meaning that they bave worked for the software colossus for at least a year.

17,000 domestic employees. Some prefer the flexibility and the bigher take-home pay that temp status affords, hut many assail temping as a backdonr way to create a two-tier work force. The benefits that the lower tier

These temps work oext to Microsoft's

See TEMPS, Page 15

### Monday @ 3 P.M. pravious close 1.8482 1,8258 1.672 1.683 132.065 130.32 6.1912 Monday 3 30 P M. previous close 8766:93 S&P 500 Monday @ 3 30 P M. previous dose 1092.48

### AGENDA

# Mideast Talks 'In Dire Straits'

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The State Department spokesman described Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts Monday as being "in dire straits" after a mission by its senior peace envoy failed to break the logjam between the parties. "We have been noable to bridge the gaps on the hard

questions," said the department spokesman, James Rubin. He said the United States had not made a decision to walk away from its role as Middle East mediator, although that

remained "an option."
Washington, he said, had worked hard to develop negotiating proposals that could be accepted by Israelis and Palestinians, but "in the absence of decisions by those leaders to bridge the gaps themselves, there isn't that much the United States can do.

The U.S. envoy, Dennis Ross, ended a diplomatic mission Monday in the Middle East, citing diminishing hopes. Page 2.

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Sponsored Section	Pages 18-20.
SAUDI ARABIA	



PLAY BALL - Cal Ripken showing midseason form in the final baseball exhibition game. Page 22.

# The Collapse of Nigeria: Oil but No Fuel

By James Rupert Washington Post Service

LAGOS - About 5 P.M., it was a little crazy at the Unipetrol gas station on Olanrewaju Street in north Lagos. About 270 cars and drivers nearly hlocked the four-lane road, anxious and testy, because after a day of waiting there was now gasoline to be bought.

Soldiers with guns and whips beld the crowd in control, if oot in order, letting a few cars at a time drive up to the pumps. A 33-year-old salesman who gave his name only as Desmond edged his

battered brown Peugeot up to a pump and told weary anendants to fill it up. "I've beeo waiting since 8 o'clock this morning," he said, pulling out a dirty wad of bills. "I've lost a day's work," be munered. "I've hardly

Nigeria, one of the world's biggest

oil-producing nations, is plagued, sometimes virtually paralyzed, these days by a desperate shortage of gasoline. The crisis is perhaps the most dramatic sign of how far this African giant has collapsed under a repressive military government, widely regarded

as one of the world's most corrupt. Shortages of gasoline, kerosene and diesel fuel have become routine in the 1990s.

But "this is the worst one ever io Nigeria," said H.O. Soyinka, the gas station operator.

Nigeria pumps more than 2 million barrels of crude oil each day - and its four refineries supposedly can make 445,000 barrels a day of gasoline, oearly twice the country's needs. But Nigeria's refineries - like its railroads, electrical

See OIL, Page 6

will be flexible with measures I have to take," he told Parliament. lodustrial output fell 3.3 perceot in February from the previous month, more than most economists had forecast, and was expected to fall 2.5 percem month-on-mooth in both March

may finally bow to that pressure.

and April, the Trade Ministry said. The data sent the benchmark Nikkei index of 225 stocks down 2,8 percent, or 476.22 points, to 16,263.04. The yen also fell sharply against the dollar. (Page 12)

"The worse-than-expected production figures assured me the economy is in terrible shape," said Yoshihito Ishii, a fund manager at Asahi Life Investment Management Co.

Inventory buildup, particularly high in cars and raw materials, continued in February for the fourth month in a row, with overall stock levels rising 0.5 percent from a month earlier. This was the main reason behind the weak production levels, a Trade Ministry official said.

See JAPAN, Page 6

# In Jonesboro, an Odd and Deadly Couple

Wushington Post Service

ONESBORO, Arkansas — The older boy was full of boasts and big talk. Thirteenyear-old Mitchell Johnson would tell anyone who would listen that he belonged to a gang - sometimes the Bloods, other times the Crips. He once used a razor blade to carve a gir friend's name faintly into his arm. He said be smoked marijuana. None of his classmates be-

The younger boy, Andrew Golden, 11, was known in the neighborhood for a foul mouth and short temper, the kind of kid that parents steered their children away from. "He could be a little terror at times," said one neighbor, who would not give his name. He would pick on the girls or cuss somebody out in a second."

Still, Mitchell and Drew, as Golden was known, seemed no worse than bothersome or bullying until last Tuesday, when, police here allege, the chunky teenager and wiry little boy carried out the most murderous plot this small town has ever seen.

With an arsenal of guns and ammunition stolen largely from Mitchell's grandfather, and waving canonings clothing, the two youths crouched in a wooded area outside Westside Middle School and opened fire on their teachers and classmates, police say, killing one teacher and four students.

There is no greater mystery here than the motives of the two boys. To neighbors, class-motes and parents who knew them, there was nothing in their history or behavior that would foreshadow such a deliberately heinous act. If parents and their children considered them odd, it was in familiar, innocuous ways. Perhaps they were children at an awkward age.

"We're just like everyone else." said Doug Golden, Drew's grandfather. "We have no idea why. We never saw this coming, I mean never." The two boys were an odd pair: The elder was from the Midwest and had relocated to this insular, Bible Belt town with his mother and stepfather, the younger was the only child of a hard-working, middle-class family whose roots here go back several generations. Their classmates say the two did not seem especially close.

Their whole relationship seemed to exist on the brief bus rides to and from school, when the two usually sat next to each other. The boys did have one interest in common:

weapons, Each knew how to handle a gun.
At times, schoolchildren said, Mitchell seemed to try too hard to impress his new peers with braggadocio. He talked about gangs and marijuana. In class, he was known to taunt girls, sometimes cruelly, and he boasted idly that be planned to beat up boys he didn't like.

Police doubt that Mitchell had any gang af-filiation, particularly not in Jonesboro, where authorities say they are unaware of any street

gangs.
"He was just a little punk," said Eric Cornwell,
13, a classmate. "He was weird, really annoying,
but nobody really thought anything of it."

JERUSALEM — A U.S. diplomatic offensive to rescue

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations neared its end on a bleak note Monday, with Dennis Ross, President Bill Clinton's special

envoy to the Middle East, citing diminishing hopes for peace

that people bave for seeing a very different Middle East and

for building and achieving peace." Mr. Ross said at the

Egyptian resort of Sharm el Sbeikh after briefing President

The envoy returned to Israel later Monday for yet another found of talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of

Mr. Netanyahu also sounded a pessimistic note over the ability of the latest U.S. shuttle diplomacy to break the

yearlong peace freeze.

He said, "We are going to continue these discussions and

probably get into whether in such a short schedule we'll iron

Who is responsible for developing policy and standards for the development

of the Internet?

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Palestinians took an even darker view of Mr. Ross's fourday peace mission. Hanan Ashrawi, a minister in the Pal-

Israel before heading back to Washington.

Hosni Mubarak.

out all the issues.

"Obviously, the stalemate begins to diminish the hopes



Doug Golden, Drew's grandfather, said some weapons found with the boys were highly sophisticated.



Mitchell Johnson, age 13.



Andrew (Drew) Golden, age 11.

There is no greater mystery than the motives of the two boys. To neighbors, classmates and parents who knew them, there was nothing in their history or behavior that would foreshadow such a deliberately heinous act. If parents and their children considered them odd, it was in familiar, innocuous ways.

Like Mitchell, Drew was close to his grandparents. His parents worked long hours at the post office, and Drew spent much time at his grandparents' home, near the school and John-

Both Drew's father and grandfather were avid hunters and taught the slightly built boy how to handle a rifle. Mitchell also was handy with guns, according to Mike Baskerville, an instructor in a gun safety course that the boy completed last year.

Drew Golden shot competitively in a national gun meet last year. While his grandfather has gun meet last year. While his grandfather has repeatedly told reporters that his grandson was a "good kid," neighbors describe Drew as often profane and surly. Parents said the boy had struck some girls in the neighborhood, although no ooe could recall any real harm being done. Police say Drew set the boys' plan in motion Tuesday when he slipped out of class, pretending to go to the bathroom. Instead, authorities allege, he pulled the school fire alarm, then fled the building to join Johnson, who was at the edge of

building to join Johnson, who was at the edge of the woods near the school, already in place for the

istinian cabinet, said, " It is obvious that once again American

efforts at attempting to resuscitate the peace process bave

peace talks based on a further Israeli troop redeployment in

the West Bank and parallel Palestinian steps against Muslim

Mr. Ross's mission has been viewed as a critical last-ditch

bid at diplomacy before Washington either goes public with

its proposals — a move Israel wants to scuttle — or possibly

'unacceptable'' and compromises its security interests.

security needs and the scope of a long-delayed pullback.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Italian Museums Free for a Week

ROME (AP) - Admission will be free at Italy's state

museums, monuments, archaeological sites and other treasures during the traditional Cultural Patrimony Week, which

The museums include such attractions as the Uffizi in

Philippine Airlines is suspending its three-times-a-week

flights to Dubai for economic reasons, a spokesman for the

Florence, Rome's newly reopened Galleria Borghese and the

National Gallery of Modern Art in Venice.

airline said Monday.

Alitalia Strike Off, Others On

would operate across the country.

The United States is reportedly seeking an Israeli pullback from 13.1 percent of the West Bank, a figure Israel says is

Mr. Netanyahu has said that Israel alone will decide its

Mr. Ross is trying to promote a U.S. initiative to restart

come face to face with Israeli intransigence."

washes its hands of the peace process.

Hopes in Mideast Talks Fade, U.S. Envoy Says

massacre that took place over the next 20 seconds. As children and teachers emerged from the school.

the gunfire began, slowly at first, then faster.

"We heard these shots," said Candace Porter,
11. "We thought it may bave been a test to see how we'd react to such a thing." Then, "we knew it wasn't a test because there was people follows to the ground." falting to the ground."

Porter, who was struck in the leg, was Mitchell's girlfriend for three days last month. Classmates said that their breakup, initiated by Porter, inspired the 13-year-old's anger. Kara Tate, 11, said Mitchell bad threatened

violence. "He said he was definitely going to shoot Candace because she bad broken up with

But police say they are unsure of the boys' motives, and Porter told the Jonesboro Sun newspaper that when she broke off ber relationship with Mitchell, he did not appear angry but merely turned and walked away. Moreover Mitchell had brief relationships with other girls and did not react violently when they ended.

If the motives are unclear, however, police say

the intent was not. The attack was premeditated.

On the day of the shooting, Mitchell told his parents he had a stomach ache and did not want to attend school. Later, according to police and Doug Golden, the boys broke into Golden's home and walked out with weapons and ammunicion. The youths had already stolen a 7-yearold Dodge minivan from Mitchell's parents.

Inside the van, the boys had packed sleeping bags, potato chips and soda. It appeared they planned to hide out in the woods after the sbooting, though police say it's unclear where they planned to go.

planned to go.

When police officers caught the boys moments after the shooting, they discovered inside Drew's camouflage vest: 19 .44-caliber shells; 34 .357-caliber shells; 49 .380-caliber shells; 16 .30-caliber shells; 26 .357-magnum shells; six .30-caliber shells and three .30-caliber clips. He was carrying a rifle and three handques. was carrying a rifle and three handguns.

Mitchell was carrying a deer-hunting rifle, four pistols, a .38-caliber revolver and two pocket knives. From the van and the boys, police recovered 10 firearms in all.

Mandela Sees Blow Possible Hoax In Report on Coup Attempt

By Suzanne Daley
New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — The myster surrounding the arrest of a former and apartheid guerrilla who is a government official is deepening. President Nelson Mandela said he had received a report linking the former guerrilla, several army generals and the president's former wife, Winnie Madikizela-Man-dela, to a plot to overthrow the gov-

But the president said the report, sub-mined to him by the chief of the army. General Georg Meiring, was probably a hoax. He said it might be part of a right-wing plot to undermine the nation's first black-led government. Rumors have circulated for more than

Rumors have circulated for more than a week that the arrest on March 9 of the former guerrilla, Robert McBride, on gun-running charges in Mozambique was somehow linked to a coup plot.

Mr. McBride, who works in South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs, in heat length for carrying out a terrorist.

Africa's Department of Foreign Atlans, is best known for carrying out a terrorist kending in 1986 that talled these rivilians. But he was released from death row as part of the negotiations for the country's transition to majority rule and

was given a job in the government.
On Friday, Mr. Mandela appointed a judicial panel to investigate a secret report a coup plot, but he gave not details. In an interview published in The Sunday Independent of Johannesburg, he said that the report had carge from he said that the report had come from General Meiring and that it was based on the word of one informant, a man arrested with Mr. McBride.

Mr. Mandela said the judicial panel was supposed to find out how the report was compiled, why the source was not double-checked and why it bypassed the normal intelligence agency chain of

The report is another piece of what is becoming a complex mystery surrounding Mr. McBride. Some newspapers are: suggesting that Mr. McBride, thinking he was helping to investigate the illegal arms trade, may have been duped into going to Mozambique by those behind the report.

Mr. Mandela said be had suspicions!

African Army, which tried to integrate thousands of former anti-apartheld guerrillas into its ranks. Among those listed in the coun recent are several of listed in the coup report are several of the highest-ranking former guerrillas, including Siphiwe Nyanda, the man most likely to replace General Meiring when he retires this summer.

Mr. Mandela said he was absolutely confident that the former guerrillas named in the report were loyal to him.
"We must not be complacent," he

said in a television interview. "But we VEW YORK — The victim was

de the second to see

10WN AWAY - Residents ause. Tornadoes in the area

# Away From Politics

The U.S. Army and National Guard at fleets of more than 900 UH-I Hoey anances find the cause of a gearbox full

By Jan Hoffman

said in a television interview. But we are supremely confident that we are in total command. And any attempt, we will blot it out quickly and decisively.

The judicial panel includes Richard Goldstone, a judge on South Africa's highest court who was the chief prosecutor in the Rwandan and Balkan war, crimes tribunals. It is expected to report to Mr. Mandela within two weeks.

to Mr. Mandela within two weeks. they weeks later, the processing the supply revealed they had caught the sapenand said they had never he weeks. 'n Roben Moore.

His confession, it turned out been utterly talse. During a November deposition

Today

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ation to Puzzle of March 30

### Young and Sick Advised to Avoid Borneo Malaysian states of Sabah

issued travel warnings advising preg-nant women, all children and people suffering from heart and respiratory problems to avoid the island of Borneo, where forest fires are spreading a choking smog.

The warnings cover Brunei and the

CANBERRA — Australia's For-eign Affairs Department on Monday inside air-conditioned buildings or wear face masks if forced to venture outside.

Meanwhile, all 177 schools in the Malaysian town of Miri on Borneo have been ordered closed because of the smog, the official Bernama news agency said Monday.

# **WEATHER** recast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Israeli polincal sources said Mr. Ross had not brought Mr. Netanyahu concrete answers from Yasser Arafat, the president of the Palestinian Authority, on what steps be would take on security, in parallel with a staged Israeli troop with-ROME (Renters)—Alitalia flight attendants called off a 24-hour strike in useponse to a government appeal, but disruption to fail travel and subway systems during the week looked unavoidable.

The Alitalia stoppage had been planned for Tuesday.

Rail networks will be hit on Wednesday by a strike by train drivers from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and by station masters from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. Rail officials said that a minimum train service Italian journalists, protesting failed contract talks, stayed off the job Monday. Newspapers will not be available Tues-

Middle East

36/67 21/70 s 39/102 23/73 s 16/61 11/52 sh 14/57 11/52 c 22/71 94/5 s 26/79 14/57 s 12/55 4/39 pc 14/57 6/43 pc 11/52 4/39 pc 14/57 6/43 pc 27/90 84/6 s 30/97 19/56 s 31/66 19/66 s 36/97 19/66 s

North America

Turning cooler in the Midwest Wednesdey with some showers and thunderstorms likely, then comfortable with sun Thursday and Friday. Sunny and comfortable with some in the Midwest but thunderstorms will move in Friday by Friday. Spain will be dry likely in northern Visitnam, and comfortable with some northern Laos and Myandery warm in the Midwest but thunderstorms will move in off the Attartho maybe wet snow in Seoul by Friday. Party sunny and Wednesday, but surny and showers in the Southwest, but dry and warmer by Friday. Chilly with day, but windy with show-clouds in Belging, then much warmer Friday.

North America

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# THE AMERICAS

هجذامن الأمهل

# Mandela See In Blow to Starr, Court Will Hear Appeal on Clinton Aide's Notes Possible Hoa

The Associated City.

WASHINGTON — In a decision that will further delay the Whitewater investigation, the Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear arguments that the attorney-client privilege protects notes takeo by a lawyer for Vincent Foster, the late White House deputy counsel.

House deputy counsel. coup Attemption that the attorney takeo by a lawyer for Vince House deputy counsel.

A decision is not experiment that the notes wants the notes.

-A decision is not expected until next year.

The Whitewater independent counsel, Kenneth
Starr, wants the notes to help determine whether Les Hilbert The me according to the arrest of a former to the arrest of a former to the according to the acc presidential aides lied about whether Hillary Rodham Clinton had a role in the dismissals of workers In the White House travet office. She has said she

had no role. Mr. Starr had urged the justices to let stand a lower court ruling that said the notes were not necessarily protected by attorney-client privilege. If the highest court had done so, he could have immediately asked a federal judge 10 decide whether the notes should be surrendered to a grand jury that subpoenaed them in December 1995.

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three pages of ooles on July 11, 1993, during a meeting with his client about the investigation of

the travel office dismissals. Nine days later, Mr. Foster was found dead of what the amhorities say was a self-inflicted gunshot wound in a park outside Washington.

Whilewater investigators said they were entitled to Mr. Hamilton's notes because they can no longer call Mr. Foster as a witness in their investigation. A federal judge ruled the notes were protected by attorney-client privilege. But a federal appeals court reversed the decision, saying the notes are not necessarily protected after death.

In criminal cases, such notes can be turned over to prosecutors if they "bear on a significant aspect of the crimes at issue" and other reliable evidence

is scarce, the appeals court said, Mr. Hamilton's Supreme Court appeal said the appeals court's ruling "defeats the fundamental purpose" of the attorney-client privilege.

riously ill -- still have a right to talk to an anomey in confidence," Mr. Hamilton said.

People may be hesitant to talk to their lawyers about criminal matters if those statements could be disclosed after their own death, he added.

Mr. Starr urged the justices to reject Mr. Hamilton's appeal, saying, "This court's review would further delay an important grand jury investigation which touches on vital matters of pub-

Mr. Foster "would have been an important witness" in the travel office investigation, and the would disclose information Mr. Foster would have provided if he were alive, Mr. Starr

In another decision, the court rejected the appeal of a U.S. soldier facing a bad-conduct discharge for refusing to wear a United Nations shoulder patch and UN hlue beret for a peace-keeping mission. The justices, without comment, turned away the

entitled to an honorable discharge because the order he disobeyed would have required him to become a "UN soldier" and violate his oath of

A military court-martial rejected that argument. and two lower courts ruled they could oot hear Mr. New's case because he had not yet finished seeking

help from military appeals courts.

Mr. New, a medical specialist now on involuntary leave in the Houstoo area, joined the army in 1993. While stationed in Germany in 1995, Mr. New was sold he was to be deployed to Macedonia as part of a UN peacekeeping force. Mr. New told his superior he would not wear the UN colors unless provided with some constitutional authority

requiring him to do so.
"I have never taken an oath to the United Nations, but I have taken the required oath to support and defend the constitution, " he wrote in a statement submitted to his superiors.

# Florida Executes a Woman

### Murderer Has No Last Statement in Electric Chair

The Associated Press

STARKE, Florida day in the electric chair.

She was the first woman put to death

The power was turned on at 7:08 A.M. Smoke curled up from her right leg throughout the 38-second electrocution. She was pronounced dead at 7:13 A.M.

Ms. Buenoano was executed for the

been convicted of drowning Michael Goodyear, her 19-year-old son, hy giving him arsenic - which might have caused his paralysis - and pushing him

He was wearing heavy leg and arm

Buenoano, who poisoned her husband, drowned her paralyzed son and tried to hlow up her fiance, was executed Mon-

in Florida since 1848, and only the third woman executed in the United States since 1976. Prosecutors contend that she became a killer because she wanted to collect \$240,000 in insurance

Guards helped Ms. Buenoano, 54, walk into the death chamber at 7:02 A.M. She was strapped into the chair and asked if she had a final statement.

"No, sir," she answered weakly, not looking at the witnesses on the other side of a glass partition. Once, she leaned her head back and opened her mouth widely. She grimaced as they tightened the leather straps.

arsenic poisoning of her hushand in

The former nail saloo owner had also

# For First Time Since 1848

braces and had no life jacket.

But until she tried to kill her fiance, John Gentry, in 1983 by bomhing his car in Pensacola, Florida, Ms. Buenoano had not been suspected of the two killings. Mr. Gentry said she had given him "vitamins" that made him sick.

Buenoano is Spanish for "good year." Investigators learned that Ms. Buenoano had been married to Sergeant James Goodyear of the air force, exhumed his remains and found he had lethal amounts of arsenic in his body when he died in 1971.

Prosecutors in Colorado found evideoce that Ms. Buenoano poisoned a boyfriend, Bohby Joe Morris, in Trinidad, Colorado, in 1978, hut decided not to charge her.

In her final days, Ms. Buenoano crocheted blankets and bahy clothes and said she wanted to be remembered as a good mother. She continued to deny killing her husband and boyfriend and maintained that her son's drowning had been an accident.

"Seeing the face of Jesus, that's what I think about," she recently told a Florida television station. "I'm ready to go

The state's last execution of a woman was in 1848, when a slave named Celia was hanged for killing her owner, Jacoh Bryan, who also was her father and the father of her children. It had been 41 years since a woman

was executed by electrocution in the

United States, Rhonda Belle Martin was put to death on Oct. 11, 1957, in Alabama for poisoning her mother, three daughters and two husbands. Only two other womeo had been ex-ecuted since the U.S. Supreme Court

lifted the ban on the death penalty in 1976, and both were hy injection.

In 1984, Velma Barfield was executed by North Carolina for poisoning her boyfriend. Texas put Karla Faye Tucker to death on Feb. 3 for a doublepickax morder. Ms. Tucker was a telegenic, avowed Christian who ministered to her fellow immates, expressed contritioo for her crimes and even received support from the Pope.

"Judy was a born-again Christian." said Jeanne Eaton, a cousin of Ms. Buenoano's from Houston. "She may not have been as photogenic, as young, as pretty as Karla, but she was just as good a Christian."

On Sunday, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta and the Supreme Court denied her appeals, which claimed she was innocent and called the electric chair 'harharic,' something that "belongs in Franken-

stein's laboratory.'

Another Florida inmate is scheduled to be executed Tuesday, for the fourth electrocution in the state in a nine-day span.

### Abortion Foe Jolts Edgy Republicans

POLITICAL NOTES

leaders driven to a tizzy by Gary Bauer, the news is not good: He is leaning toward a presidential bid.

The Washington-based conservative activist, making his first appearance at a showcase for White House aspirants, told Texas conservatives over the weekend that congressional Republicans had a "hang-dog look" and "act like they lost Congress four years ago" instead of capturing it.

He said opposition to abortion musi be the comersione of the party platform, and challenged the Republican establishment to "stand against the agenda of the gay rights movement." Then, he all but announced his intention to run for president in 2000).
Mr. Bauer's Family Research

Council rivals the Christian Coalition as a voice for grassroots conservative activists. His political action comminee raised \$3.1 million so far this year, spending \$600,000 in hehalf of candidates.

Mr. Bauer may have overreached this spring, buying anti-abortion television in a California congressional district. Republican leaders believe that moderate voters, turned off hy the ads, turned out for the Democratic candidate who won.

The Republican establishment fears that Mr. Bauer's scorchedearth politics will disrupt the Republican coalition of economic and social conservatives in November elections this year and 2000. (AP)

### Press Gingerly Tells New Sex Allegation

WASHINGTON - The legal filing, depending on which account you read in Sunday's papers, de-scribed a "sexual incident" (the New York Post: a possible "assault" (The Washington Times): a "hearsay account of an otherwise unsubstantiated encounter" (The New York Times); or "a sensational - but uncorreporated - allegation that Clinton raped a woman" (The Washington Post).

It was also a journalistic conundrum: how to treat the allegation, contained in a larger filing by Paula Jones's lawyers, that President Bill Clinion had committed rape when he was Arkansas attorney general in the late 1970s.

Ordinarily, news outlets would be unlikely to report on such a 20year-old allegation against a president without a direct account from the supposed victim. But the fact that it was filed in a legal brief in Mrs. Jones's high-profile sexual harassment suit seemingly made it fit to print — or at least difficult to

Further complicating the matter is that while the woman's attorney complained that she was the subject of "vicious runiors," he would not confirm or deny the allegation, which was based on the statement of an Arkansas man who described himself as the woman's friend. The woman declined to comment to The Associated Press. A White House spokesman called the charge "outrageous and false."

### Quote/Unquote

Michael McCurry, the White House press secretary, who is trav-eling with President Bill Clinton in Africa, after eating two sun-dried mophane worms, a delicacy in Botswana: "Tastes like a dead worm

# Tem with the set of th

BLOWN AWAY - Residents of St. Peter, Minnesota, examining the damage a tornado did to their house. Tornadoes in the area also killed a 6-year-old boy and injured more than three dozen people.

### **Away From Politics**

• The U.S. Army and National Guard are grounding their fleets of more than 900 UH-1 Huey helicopters until mechanics find the cause of a gearbox failure.

 A Boeing Delta II rocket carrying five Motorola Iridium satellites was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base,

California, as part of a wireless telecommunications net-

 Residents of a Denver apartment building watched four men beat a taxi driver and dump him in the trunk of his cah but did not call the police, officials said. The man

 A New York City man was charged with strangling his 8-year-old stepson after a dispute over changing the litter in

Department of Justice study in 1992.

The practice is growing. William

Geller, a police consultant who con-

ducted the study, said that law enforce-

ment officials were realizing that "one

simple use of technology served the

disparate interests of efficiency, effec-

New York region, videotaping of in-

terrogations is rare, because prosecutors fear it will make detectives as well as

suspects self-conscious and give de-

But others have found it useful. "It

will shore up our case at trial: if there is

any doubt about an investigator's ethics.

we can say, 'Hey, let's look at the video-

tape," "said Brett Swab, a former pros-

ecutor in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where in-

terrogations of suspects in violent crimes

have been recorded since the mid-1980s.

fense lawyers more targets to attack.

# Prevalence of False Confessions Shakes Judiciary

By Jan Hoffman New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The victim was a taxi driver, a 45-year-old father of two. The Nassau County police on Long Island proudly announced the arrest of Robert Moore, who had confessed to being with two acquaintances as they robbed and killed the cabby. Prosecutors said they might seek the death penalty.

Three weeks later, the prosecutors sheepishly revealed they had caoght the real killers, who produced the murder weapon and said they had never heard of a Robert Moore.

His confession, it turned out, had

been utterly false. During a November deposition for his federal civil rights lawsuit over the 1995 episode on Long Island, Mr. Moore said he had falsely confessed only because investigators grilled him for 22 hours, threatened him with the death penalty and even brought in a cousin to urge him to come clean. He had heen tired, lonely and scared. "I

wanted to go home," he said.
In the U.S. Supreme Court's Miranda decision in 1966, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote about police interrogation techniques of such compelling power that they could produce untrustworthy confessions. To alert suspects that they

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court created the famous warnings. But after three decades of rulings that and police departments around the counhave undercut Miranda's teach, and the try are audiotaping and even videotaping increasingly savvy tactics of investi- not just confessions, but often intergators, the warnings have become an rogations as well, according to a federal easily slipped latch to the interrogation room, with the vast majority of suspects waiving their rights. Once a suspect

voluntarily enters that room, courts per-

mit interrogators to use tricks, decep-

tions and lies - anything short of threats of violence or promises of lenience — to extract confessions. Thousands of guilty criminals have been caught in this fashion. But in a number of cases, the incredible occurs: the police extract a confession from an

innocent person. Determining that a confession is false is a risky, arduous and often fruitless quest. But in recent years, more confessions have been successfully contested because of modern forensic tools such as DNA testing, a hurgeoning social science of analyzing confessions for their truthfulness, and the increased skepti-

cism of juries about police conduct. Although the number of false concrown jewel of criminal prosecutions.

fessions is in dispute, their prevalence is shaking the confidence of both prosecutors and juries in the reliability of confessions, which have long been the In an attempt to restore the credibility

**CROSSWORD** 

It adds to our credibility. Some recent trials show that juries are less likely to be convinced by cases that rely heavily on confessions. In early 1997 on Long Island, Nassau County jurors acquitted a man who had confessed to two murders, after he testified had the right to stop the questioning, the of the confession - and of the police that the police had physically and psy-

themselves — at least 2,400 sheriff's chologically abused him. Detectives denied the allegations.

In September, Suffolk County jurors acquitted Gairy Chang of the first-degree murder of two drug dealers even though he had signed a six-page con fession; he testified that the police had interrogated him, naked and handcuffed, and squeezed his testicles. James Catterson Jr., the Suffolk County district attorney, said Mr. Chang had lied on the stand.

tiveness and legitimacy."
On the East Coast, particularly in the Psychologists have found that a few personality types are more likely to make false confessions. Some unstable people are drawn to the lurid glamour of notorious cases: When Charles Lindbergh's son was kidnapped, at least 200 people claimed responsibility. On rare occasions, a suspect may

incriminate himself to protect the real offender. Other suspects say they committed one crime, hoping to draw the investigators' attention away from an-

# Still a Little Lost? Relief Is On Way

WASHINGTON - The government plans to upgrade the Global Positioning System in the next few years to make handeld navigation instruments up to 10 times more accurate, a

was to be announced by Vice President Al Gore. The upgrade furthers a position staked out two years ago by the Clinton administration to maximize the commercial usefulness of the

used by surveyors laying out property lines and hy scientists studying small movements of land to predict earthquakes.

But the cheapest devices, the ones sold for \$100 to \$200, could establish a location to within 33 feet (10 meters) or less.

Existing inexpensive units generally provide accuracy to within about 115 to 160 feet. 'What this does for the common user, the guy who has the

\$199 receiver, is you're going to be able to get back to a fishing hole or whatever, not within 150 feet, but within 20 or 30 feet," the White House official said.

for directions without knowing the car's precise location. Existing technology allows a central dispatcher to know that the driver is on, for example, Interstate 95, but with the new system the dispatcher would know whether it was in the northbound or the southbound lanes. The change will require new satellites and new receivers.

But the change of satellites will occur naturally because the 24 satellites that send the signals to the ground to establish a location are replaced every seven and a half years. Existing receivers will perform as they always have, like a black-andwhite television receiving color signals. The new satellites will be launched beginning around 2004.

# By Matthew L. Wald New York Times Service

White House official said. The change, approved by a federal committee on Friday,

system, oo which the Pentagon has spent \$10 billion.

The change would oot affect the performance of the best commercial Global Positioning System receivers, which cost up to \$30,000 and, using satellite signals, can pinpoint a location to within centimeters in longitude, latitude and elevation. They are

Global Positioning System receivers in cars can signal their position to a central office, so that a driver who is lost can ask

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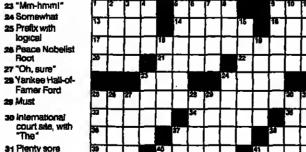
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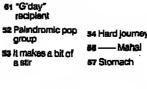
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New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.



By Seth Mydans New York Times Service

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's battered democracy began its severest test Monday as Prince Norodom Ranariddh returned from exile to run for reelection as prime minister against the man who ousted him in a coup nine months ago.

The coup leader, Hun Sen, who had shared an antagonistic coalition government with Prince Ranariddh as coprime minister, bowed to international pressure to let him hack as the country prepares for an election in July. Bot that is only a first step. Many analysts here say that unless political violence and manipulation are brought under control, the election cannot be free and fair.

Since a United Nations-sponsored election in 1993 that was hailed as a triumph of democracy, Cambodia has descended into old patterns of infighting and violence. The tensions exploded in tank battles and artillery last July when Mr. Hun Sen seized full control of the country for himself.

For many analysts, the new election will amount to a verdict on the \$2 hillion international effort to plant the seeds of democracy in a country that has been ravaged by wars and mass killings for more than 30 years.

The Communist Khmer Ronge, who caused the deaths of more than a million people when they ruled the country from 1975 to 1979, have been reduced to a small insurgency. Last week, the remnants of their leadership reportedly fractured in an armed mutiny.

But Cambodia still suffers from the

traumas of the Khmer Rouge years, and deep-seated hatreds and habits of violence have eroded the democracy and the civil society put in place by the United Nations.

'I am truly delighted to be back," Prince Ranariddh said in a prepared statement on his arrival. Then, talking to reporters, he added, "You can't help having feelings of apprehension."

The prince, who has been living mostly in Thailand, said he had not yet decided whether to extend his current visit for more than a few days.

Since Mr. Hun Sen's coup, members of his party have systematically intim- £ idated the political opposition, from r. Parliament members down to village organizers. Dozens of supporters of the prince, as well as members of their families, have been killed.

With Mr. Hun Sen continuing to raise new technical hurdles, there is still no guarantee that Prince Ranariddh will be able to take part in the election. Even if he does, none of the country's 50 registered opposition parties has access to broadcast media.

Among other things, Mr. Hun Sen insisted that the prince be tried in absentia and sentenced to prison this month on charges of illegal arms im-portation and illegal contacts with the Khrner Rouge. He was also fined \$54 million for the destruction caused by the fighting during Mr. Hun Sen's coup.

Under a plan brokered by the Japanese government, the prince was allowed to return and avoid these penalties after receiving a pardon from his father, King Norodom Sihanouk, who remained at his overseas home in China.



Cambodians trying to get a look at Prince Ranariddh as they welcomed him at Phnom Penh airport Monday.

In the months since the coup, Mr. Hun Sen has ignored repeated demands from the UN human rights representative for Cambodia, Thomas Hammerberg, for specific improvements in his behavior. Without these, Mr. Hammerberg said, the UN might not agree to assist, monitor or recognize the elec-

Among the demands, Mr. Hun Sen has failed to investigate a grenade attack on an opposition rally on March 30 a year ago that killed 16 people and wounded more than 100. Many people

blame his supporters for the attack. Nev-ertheless, one Western diplomat said many foreign nations appeared ready to accept even the bare forms of an election in order to declare democracy alive and resume aid to Cambodia that was suspended after the coup.

"The attitude is, you deliver elec-tions: you've got democracy," the dip-lomat said. "But elections are not equivalent to democracy. It's what happens in the five years between the elections. And if you look at that aspect, there's very little to shout home about."

The surge of optimism that accompanied the UN-sponsored election has slipped away now.
The international community has

grown weary of Cambodia's self-destructive impulses. Many foreign governments have lowered their expectations, replacing idealism with

The diplomat said, "The international community has shown over and over again that it is not willing to derail the march towards elections because one bloke got killed down in Prey Veng."

# China's Rivals I plependent In Hong Kong: See Danger in I Local Law Bill!

HEV The political comments are a Parliament Secretary Cardalates won

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Rightin - 31th. you direct election portion ine proposerrament rist People's Mewermone one gamed 10 seats, and and and page and Peasant Party Blog

le Communists are stille quelle all mite party livis. A vote for all in the ratio is as a show at the Mence in President La ma's stalemated efforts to alafter market. Those efforts shocked by the departing which is dominated by the Con-

Communists have dear an from militons of pension matters and other voters where g andards have plummered and se gamed independence from the Union in 1991. The government she equivalent of \$2.5 billion reages, and hundreds of millions

Kong must obey local laws.

Martin Lee, leader of the Democratic
Party, said: "This new bill is a major. threat to the rule of law - which means' by definition that no individual or body,

is above the law. Mr. Lee said he had requested that the bill be considered in Washington's anoual review of Hong Kong's autonomy, mandated by the Hong Kong-United States Policy Act. The assessment is presented to the U.S. Congress every based on how to emerge from the transfer and the congress every April and says that Hong Kong can and solutions will be found that Benjoy special relations with the United like supported by a parliamentary at States only as long as it retains in many said a political analyst, dependence.

(AP, LAP), that Pohrebursky, (Renters, AP)

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG - Hong Kong demo-

crats charged Monday that mainland a

Chinese officials would be placed above:

the law if the legislature approved meab

sures transferring to Beijing the legal-exemptions that Britain enjoyed under

The dispute follows a pair of cases that

opened a debate in recent weeks about

whether people with connections to the

mainland have been receiving favorest

treatment since China reassumed control.

In February, the Hong Kong Justice Department declined to prosecute

China's state-run press agency, Xinhua's under a data disclosure law. A former

lawmaker, Emily Lau, said Xinhua igé

nored for 10 months her request to see a

personal file she says the agency has on

her. Under the law, requests must be answered within 40 days. Xinhua re-

sponded late with a one-line denial that

Hong Kong's leader, Tung Chee-

Two weeks ago, the Justice Depart-

ment came under fire for declining to

prosecute a prominent newspaper own-

er on charges of conspiring to defraud advertisers by inflating circulation fig-

nres. Three employees of the publisher.

Sally Aw Sian, were charged Miss Aw, publisher of the Hong Kong Standard and the Sunday Standard, is well-con-

The latest dispute is likely to reach a

head next week when the legislature

votes on a bill that would transfer legal.

exemptions the British government en-

joyed to Beijing. Critics say that the bill

goes expressly against the Basic Law. Hong Kong's mini-constitution, which states that Chinese branches in Hong.

hwa, said Xinhua's breach was only

over Hong Kong on July 1.

it had any information.

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nected in Beijing.

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26. though independent, h go are the higgest group.

un pensions. lany analysis predict the new Paran will not differ significantly athe old, and say centrist perses shooperate with Mr. Kuchma.

isting their vetes Sunday, Mr. and and Prime Minister Valeri, months pledged to work more, more, more, worsely with the new Parliament gornaci economic reforms .

Think everybody's attention will

Papon Trial Resumer

BORDEAUX - Maurice Partie

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Mr. Papon is charged with significant the arrest and deportation of 1 to the three in 1942 and 1944. He is the after Mr. Variation and 1945 are the second statement of the se

ase will go to the jury.

The six-month trial is in its

expected sometime Wednesday

Kohl's Campaign

BONN — Chancellor Helmot manager faced harsh criticism conservative Christian Democratic

mispired campaign.

With Mr. Kohl falling further social Democrats in opinion polision

ther Mr Varaut concludes his

assumed Monday forlowing a five day

of the death of his wife.

Paulette, of cancer

MAY THE SACRED HEART of Jesus be addred, glorfied loved and preserved throughout the world, now and torever Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. Saint Salter Heart of Jesus pray for us. Sami Jude mother of imrades pray for us. Sami Jude helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Amen. Say this prayer rate times a day by the ninth day your prayer will be answered it has never been known to fall. Publication must be promised, at V.

**Announcements** 

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# Caged Chinese Knifer Is Let Go

5-Year Incarceration Without Trial Ends for Mentally III Man

BELING - A mentally ill man has been freed from a cage where he was held for at least five years by police officials in southern China after stabbing

an officer, an official newspaper said.
Photographs published by the
Yangcheng Evening News on Sunday showed Deng Qilu being fed through the bars of the coffin-sized cage before his release, and being led away by white-coated mental health workers.

Mr. Deng, who is in his 40s, was detained 10 years ago after he stabbed and wounded a police officer in Xuwen County, in sonthern Guangdong said, Agence Province, the newspaper said. It said from Beijing.

officials did not hand him over for trial because they thought him to be mentally unstable.

Investigators from the nearby city of Zhanjiang visited the village police sta-tion Saturday and concluded Mr. Deng suffers from schizophrenia, the newspaper said.

■ Petition for Release of Activist Seventeen Chinese dissidents have is-

sned a signed statement protesting a sentence of three years in a labor camp for a Shanghai activist, Yang Qinheng, 44, a Hong Kong-based rights group said, Agence France-Presse reported

### BRIEFLY

# Assassin Said to Stalk Ramos

MANILA - Manila's police chief said Monday that a professional assassin was stalking President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines. Brigadier General Avelino Razon said the suspect, a discharged police officer, was supported by

"This man is a professional gun-for-hire killer," General Razon said, adding, "What I know is he has killed more than three prominent figures, but I cannot say more

A ser ior official of Mr. Ramos's Presidential Security

### China Lauds North Korea's Grit

minister, Chen Jae Hong, to discuss the North's dire problems and the issue of Taiwan, the Xinhua press

as foreign minister, that Pyongyang supported the Chinese government on the issue of Taiwan, which

countries, once described as being "as close as lips and teeth." have become more distant since Beijing established diplomatic ties with Seoul in 1992. (Reuters)

### Gunmen Kill Pakistani Shiites

walk here Monday, the police said. The elderly Shiites were killed by two unidentified

gunmen in the Punjabi town, the police said. No other details were immediately available. Drive-by shootings by masked men on motorcycles have

of tit-for-tat killings between militants of the Shiite and majority Sunni faiths.

## Former Rivals in Vanuata Unite

PORT VILA, Vanuatu --- The new prime minister of Walter Lini.

A special sitting of the 52-seat Parliament, in which Mr. Kalpokas won the support of 35 votes, confirmed him as prime minister. The two former political rivals agreed on March 18 to

Blair Steps 🛂

Ву Warren Hoge New York Times Service

ONDON - Prime Min-Tony Blair announced ccelerated program Monto forestall the cata-

said could be caused Millennium Bug — the ad by the date change in the dat ed by the date change in

hing he was concerned and medium-size added these were lagging in identification of the gravity of identification bomb, ar in the bomb, are in the bomb, on the subject that the ment would spend £97 Shifte and Superit would spend £97
(Reuters) (\$160 million) on and Conters for information logy assistance and in-funding for the Goval funding for the Gov-Action 2000 camand the training of bug busiers" to help

government also will Pants 10 train young hies and in the process dem launch their own in information tech-

eats in the in keeping with his (Reuters) and competitive in a heed, high-tech age,

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because it might affect our operations.'

A serior official of Mr. Ramos's Presidential Security Group aid, "We know he is planning to kill the president, and he has other people with him." The official added that security for Mr. Ramos had been doubled to avert the alleged assassination threat.

News of the supposed plot came at the height of a bitter presidential election campaign in which Mr. Ramos, barred by the constitution from seeking re-election, is campaigning for the speaker of the House, Jose de Venecia, to become his successor.

(Reuters)

BEIJING — Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen of China on Monday met the North Korean deputy foreign

agency said.

'Qian expressed his tribute to the courage of the Korean people in dealing with natural disasters, saying he believed they could overcome temporary difficulties under the leadership of Comrade Kim Jong II," Xinhua said Mr. Chen told Mr. Qian, who this month stepped down

Beijing sees as a renegade province.

China supported the North against U.S.-led forces in the 1950-53 Korean War. But relations between the

MULTAN, Pakistan — Gunmen on motorcycles shot and killed three Shiite activists taking an early morning

killed more than a dozen people this year, mostly Shiites.
There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Monday's attack, but the police said it appeared to be part

Vanuatu. Donald Kalpokas, formed a coalitioo government Monday that includes as his deputy the South Pacific nation's first postindependence leader, Father

form a coalition government after an election toppled the government of former Prime Minister Serge Vohor. Mr. Kalpokas's Vanua'aku Pati won 18 seats in the election on March 6, while Father Lini's National United

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China's Rival Independents
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See Danger in Local Law Bill In Elections
In Ukraine

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KIEV — The political complexion of Ukraine's new Parliament was in doubt Monday after election officials said independent candidates won more than a quarter of the seats.

and British enjoyable

specification of the second of the The head of the Central Election Commission, Mykhailo Ryabets, said candidates with no party affiliation won 114 of the 225 seats decided by direct election. The best party showing was by the Communists, who won 37 of the

The Press agency to be a second discussion of the law in The remainder of the seats in the 450member Parliament will be alloned by proportional representation of the 30 citis har requirements for the control of the contr blocs and parties that competed. Those the law legicity. results will not be known until Tuesday. Mr. Ryabets said.

In the direct election portion of the vnte, the pro-government People's Democratic Party won 13 seats; the nationalist People's Movement of Ukraine, or Rukh Party, won 8 seats; the pro-government Agrarian Party of Ukraine gained 10 seats, and the Socialist and Peasant Party Bloc won 7

one pung to occupant newspaper The Communists are still expected to do well in the party lists. A vote for them Standard to se is seen by analysts as a show of noconfidence in President Leonid Kuchma's stalemated efforts to move toward a free market. Those efforts have been blocked by the departing Parliament, which is dominated by the Communists, though independent lawmakers are the biggest group.

The Communists have drawn strength from millions of pensioners, unpaid workers and other voters whose living standards have plummeted since Ukraine gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The government owes the equivalent of \$2.5 billion in back wages, and bundreds of millions more in pensions.

Many analysts predict the new Parliament will not differ significantly from the old, and say centrist parties could cooperate with Mr. Knchma.

Casting their votes Sunday, Mr. Kuchma and Prime Minister Valeri Pustovoitenko pledged to work more productively with the new Parliament and to enact economic reforms.

· "I think everybody's attention will be focused on how to emerge from the crisis, and solutions will be found that will be supported by a parliamentary majority, said a political analyst, Mykhailo Pohrebinsky. (Reuters, AP)



Robert Kocharyan, acting president of Armenia, after voting Monday.

# Runoff Vote in Armenia **Spattered by Irregularities**

By Daniel Williams Washington Post Service

YEREVAN, Armenia - Voters went to the polls Monday in the runoff presidential election, and it was quickly apparent that there were problems in olding a clean vote.

Conditions for in polling places differed widely from precinct to precinct. Some stations were calm, and observers from all sides of the contest reported no problems. Others were chaotic, and there were complaints of attempted ballot-box stuffing, falsifications and intimidation.

Armenians and foreign diplomats regard the vote as a major step toward making regional peace and pulling the country out of deep economic problems. But if the results are judged invalid, the new president will lack the backing to make difficult decisions, observers say. "A lack of legitimacy will hurt Ar-

BRIEFLY

menia on all fronts," said Vartan Oskanian, the foreign minister. "Whoever is elected will be hampered."

Two weeks ago, the first round of voting in this election - when 12 candidates vied to get to the runoff Monday was marred by significant irregularities, according to official observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The organization, whose 140 observers fanned out across the country, will also offer an opinion on the validity of the final

Voters were choosing between Robert Kocharyan, the acting president, and Karen Demirchyan, a former Communist Party first secretary who governed the country when it was still part of the Soviet Union. Among the tasks for the victor will be settling a conflict with neighboring Azerbaijan over the separatist, ethnic Armenian enclave of Nagomo-Karabakh.

# Vision Problem for the French Right

Mainstream Opposition Is Threatened With Further Disarray

By Craig R. Whitney New York Times Service

PARIS - Three years ago, when Jacques Chirac was elected president on a promise to bring "profound change" to dispirited, unemployment-plagued France, the mainstream parties of his conservative coalition looked likely to govern the country well into the next

century.

Mr. Chirac and his prime minister then, Alain Juppe, made a stab at reducing welfare-state pension benefits for workers in the huge state sector of

### **NEWS ANALYSIS**

the economy. That brought on a paralyzing transportation strike that soured the national mood, and when Mr. Chirac called a surprise election last year, voters surprised him by making Lionel Jospin, a Socialist, prime minister.

Now, after some conservative leaders accepted support from the far-right National Front to hang on to power after the left made gains in regional assembly voting March 15, the conservatives are in disarray. Even some of their supporters fear they stand for little in voters' eyes besides political expediency.

"Unfortunately, France is in a political decline," said former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, "There's no vision of the future."

The Union of French Democracy, a loose federation of five conservative groups the Mr. Giscard created 20 years ago, could fly apart this week in the furor created by the decision of five of its leading politicians to accept support from the National Front to keep regional assembly presidencies that otherwise would have gone to the Socialist-led left. François Bayrou, the Union's leader in Parliament, wants to declare the Union dead and start a new party.

The Rally for the Republic, which Mr. Chirac formed in 1976 to preserve the legacy of Charles de Gaulle, is not in much better shape after its loss to Mr. Jospin last year. The conservatives have not recovered from that defeat, though they adopted a new program earlier this year promising to cut the role of the state in the economy, reduce taxes, and stimulate small business if they won power.

Last week, they hailed Britain's Labour prime minister, Tony Blair, who addressed the National Assembly in perfect French about his idea for weaning Britons from welfare dependency. The speech drew only a polite, stiff response from Mr. Jospin's Socialists.

"We have to stop making the National Front the alpha and omega of everything we say and do," said Pierre Lellouche, a former aide to Mr. Chirac and a member of Parliament who is but tiny splinter parties, according to the trying to rally the Rally for the Republic to a vision like Mr. Blair's.

"Once triumphant and proud of its destiny, France today is paralyzed, cringing, simultaneously passive and rebellious in the face of global change," he wrote in a book published this week

called "The Immobile Republic." With unemployment over 12 percent and economic and technological change seemingly as baffling to their political leaders as to themselves, he says, the French are confused, paralyzed, and splenetic, in the kind of dangerous mood that can lead to social turmoil.

The National Front has been winning steadily increasing share of the vote, rising from less than I percent after its founding in 1972 to 15 percent for its leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, in the first round of the 1995 presidential election.

Voters have no doubt where Mr. Le Pen stands. He has called for the return of 3 million immigrants from Africa to their homelands as a measure that would supposedly reduce crime and unemployment simultaneously. He is also against surrendering French sovereignty to the European Union, and rails against "globalism" as a threat to Gallic identity.

The National Front's influence in Parliament has been limited by a system that awards seats to the party or candidate that comes in first. But the regional assemblies use a proportional representation system that awards seats to all

So when the conservatives were slightly outpolled by the left in the re-gional voting March 15, Mr. Le Pen's 15.5 percent of the vote made it possible for mainstream rightist leaders willing to accept his support to stay on as leaders of the regional assemblies, and five Union of French Democracy regional leaders disregarded party instructions and accepted it. Two of the five mavericks have since given in to pressure and

resigned their presidencies. The regional assemblies control spending for public secondary schools, local transportation networks and jobtraining programs. At the moment, the conservatives control 12 regions and the left controls five, with a possibility of winning power in five others where conservatives have either refused National Front support or resigned after being elected with its help. But voters are now thoroughly con-

fused by the moderate right's inability to make clear what it stands for, said one of its leaders, Raymond Barre, the mayor of Lyon and a former prime minister, in an interview with Le Figaro on Friday.

"I have always thought that France needed a great party of the center." he said. But he added that such a party would succeed only if it shouldered aside every conservative leader who had exercised a position of responsibility over the past 20 years.

# **Chirac Pushes Voting Reform**

He Begins Meetings With Most of France's Political Parties

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac discussed election reform with leaders from most of the political spectrum Monday in an attempt to halt the National Front's drive into the heart of mainstream national politics.

Mr. Chirac plans talks in the next week with all "republican" party leaders - a term excluding the far rightafter the country was shaken by election deals between conservatives and the rightist National Front.

The modernization of our political life might not resolve all our problems but it is important and is a step in the right direction," said the National Assembly's speaker, the Socialist Laurent Fabius, after meeting the president,

In the protests that erupted after Jean-Marie Le Pen's anti-foreigner party wide ned its grip on power through local alliances with conservatives, Mr. Chirac went on television to call for reform and

denounce the National Front as "racist

and xenophobic," On his agenda are ways to increase the number of women in politics, heighten direct democracy. with more referendums and reform electoral laws, particularly the proportionalsystem used in local elections, which favors smaller parties.

France's Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders condemned the National Front's growing influence and more than 100,000 people demonstrated countrywide during the weekend, shout-ing "F for fascist, N for Nazi," after the French initials of the Front - FN.

The Front used its 15 percent score in regional elections March 15 to help center-right incumbents remain in office in regions where the Socialist-led coalition was poised to win.

In the ensuing chaos, the centrist Union for French Democracy split apart and 5 of the 26 regional votes were annulled. On Monday, a Socialist was elected president of the Haut-Normandie region

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offer grants to train young nology, he said.
And in keeping with his

projection of the country as modern and competitive in a

Papon Trial Resumes in Bordeaux BORDEAUX - Maurice Papon, the accused Nazi

collaborator, appeared pale and tired as his war crimes trial resumed Monday following a five-day suspension because of the death of his wife.

Mr. Papon, 87, held his head in his right hand as his main lawyer, Jean-Mare Varaut, resumed his summation that was interrupted last week by the death of Mr. Papon's wife, Paulette, of cancer.

Mr. Papoo is charged with signing the orders that led to the arrest and deportation of 1,690 Jews from Bordeaux between 1942 and 1944. He is expected to address the court after Mr. Varant concludes his summation, and then the case will go to the jury.

The six-month trial is in its final week, with a verdict expected sometime Wednesday or early Thursday. (AP)

### Kohl's Campaign Chief Assailed

BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's election campaign manager faced harsh criticism Monday from within the conservative Christian Democratic Union for leading an

With Mr. Kohl falling further behind the opposition Social Democrats in opinion polls ahead of the September

general election, the general secretary of the Christian Democrats, Peter Hintze, drew fire for focusing on secondary issues.

The premier of Saxony, Kurt Biedenkopf, said Mr. Hintze's strategy of using campaign posters at gasoline stations to criticize the ecologist Greens' call for higher gasoline taxes was misleading, principally because the Christian Democratic Union had long sought an increase in

At the same time, Mr. Biedenkopf indirectly questioned Mr. Kobl's candidacy for an imprecedented fifth term, saying 16 years was a long reign.

## Cohen to Visit Turkey in April

ANKARA — The U.S. defense secretary, William Cohen, is to visit Turkey next month to discuss defense ties between the two NATO allies, the Anatolian News Agency

On April 17, Mr. Cohen is scheduled to visit an air base in southern Turkey used by U.S. forces, and on the next day agency said. U.S. officials in Ankara were not available for

The U.S Air Force has used the Incirlik base to patrol the skies of northern Iraq to protect Kurds from serial attack by Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf War.

# Blair Steps Up to Slay Millennium Bug Mr. Blair said Britain would 1900, the devices may corrupt go bust." Mr. Blair said that

By Warren Hoge New York Times Service

LONDON - Prime Minister Tony Blair announced an accelerated program Monday to forestall the cata-San Barrier strophic essential-service lapses, business losses and communications blackouts that he said could be caused by the Millennium Bug - the caused by the date change in the year 2000.

Saying he was concerned

that small and medium-size businesses were lagging in awareness of the gravity of the "technical time bomb," Mr. Blair told a London congovernment would spend £97 million (\$160 million new centers for information technology assistance and increased funding for the Govemment's Action 2000 campaign and the training of 20,000 "bug basters" to help

> The government also will people, the older unemployed or retired people to help companies and in the process help them launch their own careers in information tech-

high-speed, high-tech age,

assist a move to educate countries abroad that have not Huge amounts of records taken into account the seri-

of inaction. "We need to act interna-tionally." Mr. Blair said, "because in a global economy other countries' problems are our own."

tributing £10 million to a pro-posed World Bank fund aimed at generating action in added that, as current president of the European Union,

community.
The Millennium Bug could

and statistics, including those Bug."

of stock and pension ac
Peter de Jager, a longtime ousness of the consequences counts, could be lost or campaigner on the issue, said altered as computers came to he thought the prime minister a halt. Any industry with time-sensitive data — from nuclear reactors and hospitals He said Britain was con- to financial institutions and retail businesses - could be Blair's example.

"Without careful preparadeveloping countries, and he tion, there could be major dis- already too late. ruption to essential services such as benefit payments, or Britain would press the case at upcoming meetings of the community.

even to emergency services such as hospitals, the fire and the police," Mr. Blair said. "If we don't tackle this probaffect millions of computers lem, the economy will slow as and other electronic devices many companies divert re-

data, crash programs or fail to Britain, the most wired country in Europe, was "leading the way in tackling the

> was showing "world leader-ship" in this area. He added that he wished other world leaders would follow Mr.

But several critics said Monday's actions were Richard Coppel, chief ex-

ecutive of Prove It 2000, a consulting group, said loosing 'dedicated amateurs" on the problem risked complicating it further. He said the government was "well-intentioned" but lacked "any understandthat will not read 2000 as a sources to cope with com- ing of how the program might valid date. Thinking it is puter failures and some even be practically applied."

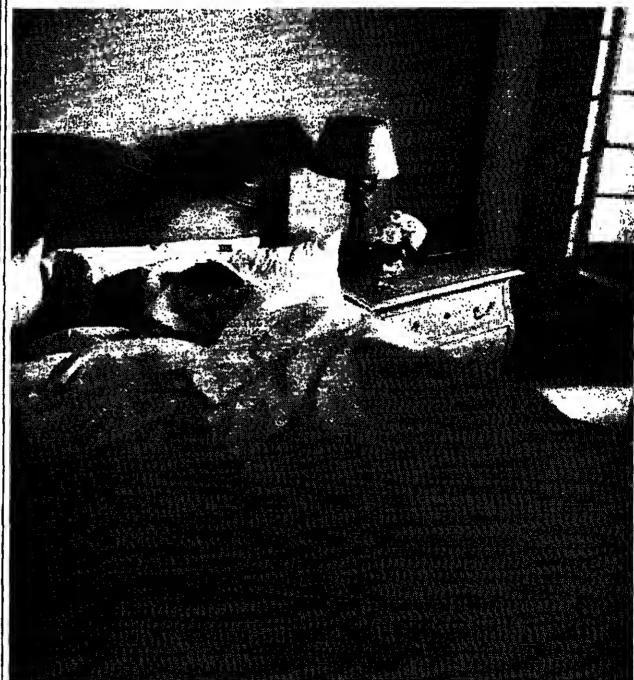
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# **Inspections in Iraq**

New arrangements for inspecting Iraq's presidential sites are working relatively well. There have been only minor disputes over ground rules between UN inspectors and Iraqi officials. But these preliminary visits, which Iraq has had plenty of time to prepare for, are not the real test of the agreement negotiated last month by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. That will come when investigators return later for surprise follow-up inspections, looking for evidence of prohibited weapons or sensitive documents describing germ and chemical warfare programs.

For now, a 70-member team of weapons experts will inventory the many buildings within the presidential sites. No inspections have previously been permitted at these locations. The investigators are recording the dimensions and layout of rooms and identifying areas where weapons or doc-uments could potentially be hidden. Following the terms of the Annan agreement, the weapons inspectors are accompanied by a team of 20 international diplomats whose role is to observe the inspection work.

One reason for Iraq's cooperative approach may be that Baghdad had weeks to remove suspect items from the sites. UN experts theorize that the presidential areas may have been used as temporary hiding places for items that the weapons investigators were close to finding elsewhere. If that pat-tern is repeated, future inspections of these sites could bring new confrontations. Still, Iraq's cooperation is welcome. Only a few weeks ago, skeptics doubted that even these inspections would go forward.

But, given the United Nations' tormented history with Iraq, no one can say how long the openness is likely to last. More than a few weeks of good behavior will be needed before inspectors can confidently certify that they have discovered and destroyed all illegal weapons and components and established a reliable monitoring system. Only when that point is reached can the United Nations seriously consider an end to sanctions.

Meanwhile, Washington cannot afford to relax its vigilance. —THE NEW YORK TIMES.

# Let the Haitians Stay

sanctuary to people fleeing war, revo-lution or persecution in their own countries. But there has been an asterisk on the U.S. performance. In the last halfcentury, most of those benefiting have come from Communist-ruled countries. American law and policy have failed to offer similar comfort to people who may be no less vulnerable to repression but who happen not to live under communism. This is how some 30,000 or 40,000 Haitians come to be in

an unhappy American limbo now. Close to a million Cubans and hundreds of thousands of Central Americans have exchanged violence and political strife in the Caribbean and Central America for a new life in the United States. Among those unsettled, only arrivals from Nicaragua and Cuba now enjoy permanent residence - the one formerly and the other still Marxist-ruled. Salvadorans and Guatemalans, from countries once caught in revolutionary turmoil, at least can appeal deportations. But Haitians are without access to classification as either immigrants or refugees. Their

opportunity to seek such status was

The United States has long given actually reduced by Congress in 1996.

A recent presidential directive spares them deportation for only a year.

Criminals and special cases aside, there is powerful reason to offer legal permanent residence to all of these displaced people who were legally admitted or who applied for asylum by 1995 — no one is talking open borders. The Haitians among them fled hardship and terror, conditions that persist. Some 11,000 of them were admitted through the American base in Guantánamo in a screening that sent twice as many back to Haiti for failing to prove that they had a credible fear of persecution there. The Central Americans avoided the rigors of individual screening; they were

treated as a class. A study be the Alexis de Tocqueville Institution notes that the Haitians have been well received in Florida, have put down roots, and send home valuable remittances. Much the same could be said of the Central Americans. Far from being deported or kept in painful suspense, they should be welcomed for the contribution they are already making to their new country.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

# Toward Normal Links Between Iran and America

TEHRAN — What do the president and foreign minister of Iran have in common with the president and secretary of state of the United States? They all want a dialogue.

Mohammed Khatami wants to establish a "thoughtful" dialogue; Karral Kharazzi one that at is "ton-

Kamal Kharrazi, one that at is "constructive." Bill Clinton wants it to be "honest"; Madeleine Albright, to be 'direct.'' And the European Union has now agreed to a dialogue that is 'open" rather than ''critical.''

But A.N.S. Khamooshi, head of Iran's state-supported Chamber of Commerce, told me when I began my visit: "Forget dialogue. Let's do business." To an American businessman, that sounded very promising.

The problem has been that when I try to discuss specifies, I hear the same mantra from almost every Iranian I meet top government officials, opposition leaders, professionals, economists, journalists, conservatives and moderates, including those who spent time in the shah's and the ayatollahs' prisons.

It goes like this; Just as President

Khatami expressed regret over the seizure of American hostages in 1979, President Clinton must apologize for the part the United States played in overthrowing the Mossadegh regime in 1953 and bringing back the shah.

Surprising as it may seem in a country where haif the male population is too young to shave, the coup that took place almost half a century ago is a fresh memory, and a national obsession.

Iranians feel like a woman deceived. The United States had been a hero since the beginning of the century for its anticolonialist stance, and a savior immediately after World War II for helping get the Russians out of Iran. But in 1951 Mohammed Mossadegh, an anti-Communist nationalist, became prime minister and nationalized the Anglo-

Iranian Oil Company.

At the triging of political mullahs and British intelligence, the CIA served as paymaster to belp overthrow Mossadegh and reinstall the shah. The line from that event in 1953 to the taking of the U.S. hostages in 1979 runs straight and true in the minds of practically every Iranian I speak to.

Americans seem equally stuck in time. The fact is that the Islamic "revolution for export" died on June 3,

NEW YORK — Tony Blair's Paris speech last

week was a milestone. Not only

was it the single best elucida-

tion, ever, of what he stands for.

lt was in fluent French, de-

livered with just the hint of a

There is a decent test that separates English-speakers who

are really at home in French

from those who are just bluffing:

whether or not you can use ab-

stract nouns (abhorrent in Eng-

lish) without giggling. Mr. Blair tossed them about like a salad.

they were all there - even (this

is a real shocker) la construc-

tion européenne, a phrase much

loved in Francophone Europe

but which in English is just

about meaningless. In Paris, Mr. Blair, who has

Vision, exclusion, cohésion,

Provencal accent.

By Stanley A. Weiss

has a president who speaks openly for the rule of law, a civil society based on the constitution, and individual rights

for all Iranians. He was elected by 70 percent of the electorate, 90 percent of whom voted last May. He is resisted by Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader. But their "good mullah, bad mullah" partnership seems to be working. It is time that the United States began to readjust it policies based on

this new reality.
Unfortunately, the Iranian economy is "sick," as President Khatami said recently. The state controls 85 percent of an economic system that is mismanaged bloated over-regulated and corrupt. The budget policies of the Padiament are subject to the final say-so of a mullah-dominated Council of Guardians.

It is as if the U.S. Supreme Court, made up members of the Moral Majority, had to approve congressional decisions. One doesn't have to be an ayatollah to know that this doesn't have a prayer of working.

Worse, 80 percent of the government's hard currency earnings and 70 percent of its revenues come from oil exports, and world oil prices have dropped to the lowest levels in a decade. The rial has gone from 70 to the dollar at the time of the 1978 revolution to a market rate today of more than 5,000. Half the population lives below the

poverty line. At least half of young franians are unemployed or underem-ployed. Annual inflation is 50 percent, more than twice the official rate.

And then there are the semi-govemmental 'foundations.' These financial organizations, purportedly charitable and run mostly by merchant-traders, operate at least 750 companies and command assets second only to those of the state. Much of their profits go to high-ranking government officials and clerics.

Yet of the 120,000 mullahs, 95 percent confine themselves to religious, not political, pursuits. You can tell who they are; they ride on bases, not in chauffeur-driven limousines.

In 10 days in Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz, I have not seen a mugger or a beggar, or anyone looking remotely like 1989, and is huried along with Ayatol-lah Rubollah Khomeini. Today Iran down Connecticut Avenue in Washthe homeless people I see when I walk

His credo for the future devel-

opment of the European Union

sense to do so, otherwise cel-

ebrate diversity — is a sound

basis for policy.

He tempered his pragmatism

— which the British think a

virtue, and everyone else the

vice of dithering — with the

His political appeal - in this

and other matters—is that he is genuinely typical of modern

Britain. As a person, he is

wholly at case in Europe, likes

the people there, raves about the

food, enjoys the rays of the

claim that he shared "the Euro-

integrate where it makes

By Michael Elliott

ington. The wide streets are clean and and repeal its secondary sanctions on free of potholes. Inatian family values and repeat its secondary would make the most dewort Christian. This would be a blow to the reactionary or Jewish fundamentalise proud.

The literacy rate among framians under 30 is an astounding 93 percent Unlike Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia, where women cannot drive or vote, Iran does not write off half of its Khatami does not succeed in attracting population, franian women are doctors, lawyers, teachers, psychologists — and vice President. Daughters of Ayatollah Khamenei and former President Hashemi Rafsanjani are feminists.

Iran is of enormous strategic importance to the United States, Sixty-four percent of the world's known oil reserves lie below and around the Gulf. This most populous nation in the Middle East has the second largest natural gas reserves in the world.

And there is the Caspian Sea, with

potential oil and gas reserves worth as much as \$4 trillion. The shortest and cheapest pipeline route to the Gulf and to Western markets runs through Iran. Containment is no longer U.S. policy toward China, whose record on human rights and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has been criminal.

to try to "contain" Iran? Whatever the rationale for a hard-line policy during the 1980s, today it only isolates the United States and Israel. America should lift its trade embargo

So why does the United States continue

foreign investment and delivering a better standard of living for most franians in the next two years, the moderates will be out.
Normalizing U.S.-Iranian relations would bring cheers from Iranians as loud as those that recently greeted the U.S. wresting team — and a mad scramble from the German, Italian, Norwegian and Japanese business executives operating here. The ones I meet love the U.S. sanctions. They are work-

forces which at present control almost

They would like nothing better than

for the United States to continue its

current policies, because if President

all of Iran's domestic income.

gives the green light for U.S. business to invest and trade, they way, "we might as well pack up and go bome."

It is time for Bill Clinton and congressional leaders to have a serious dia-

ing frantically to get their contracts fi-nalized because. The day Washington

logue about renewing the close and historic links between two great nations. The writer is chairman and founder

of Business Executives for National Security, an organization of U.S. business leaders. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

# We Need More Than Khatami's Welcome Words

COLLOWING pressure from the noises coming from Tehran, these first European Union, Iran signed the Chemical Weapons Convention. This is a positive step, which we welcome. Now it will have to live up to its commitments, including to allow intrusive inspections.

able election of President Khatami has. led to a new freedom of speech for the Iranian people and a different sort of rhetoric from the Iranian regime.

Mr. Khatami's address to the American people on CNN would have been unthinkable a year ago, and Iran's condemnation of terrorist atrocities in Libya and Egypt scarcely less so. It is right that we should respond to these developments, and encourage them. But despite the more moderate

shoots of glasnost need to be treated with care. There is more than one center of power in Iran. We cannot afford to let our guard down until Mr. Khatami's words are matched by the acts of the Iranian authorities as a whole.

Iran is an example of the sort of challenge we are facing. We have all been encouraged by the positive political developments there. The remarkgiving up its ambitions to develop weapons of mass destruction outside international controls. It means Iran removing its threat to the life of the British author Salman Rushdie.

And more than anything else, it means Europe and the United States working together to stop Iran from getting away with these unacceptable aims. - Robin Cook, the British foreign

secretary, commenting in The Washington Post.

# A Better Death

Since 1990, Dr. Jack Kevorkian has been helping people to kill themselves in motel rooms, the backs of cars and other hidden spots in Michigan. One hundred of them, hooked up to his homemade machinery, are dead today, successful in suicide because of him. Whether they would do it again is cannot know. They wanted to do it. They had their reasons, and they had only to persuade themselves and Dr. Kevorkian. There was no system to ensure that decisions to speed death were made with care, and with

adequate safeguards for the patients. But Dr. Kevorkian's widening notoriety had one salutary effect. It underscored the desperate need of terminal patients and their loved ones to find a better way of ending life. This is an issue on which the American public is ahead of the politicians. Too many people have watched as mother or father, who coped with the Depression and World War II, became trapped at the cud of life by a medical system that would not let them die.

The idea of helping people expire has become less unthinkable than watching them die too slowly by being forced to live too long. In Oregon, a liberal state on social issues, the voters first declared their support for the concept of assisted suicide by referendum in 1994. Then, after a court fight of three years, they approved doctor-assisted suicide by an even larger margin last fall. Oregon has thus become the testing ground for a new kind of aid, one that several polls taken in the last two years have shown the American public supports. That support is conditioned on the assumptions of terminal illness and pain. The hard part starts now.

Public policies need rules and bureaucrats to administer them. In Oregon, the Death With Dignity Act al-lows an ill adult to request a pre-scription of lethal drugs if he or she is

of sound mind and judged by two doctors to have less than six months to live. A doctor may write the prescription, but not administer the drugs. Last month, to detail that policy, the state issued a rule book of 91 pages, and decided that state Medicaid money could be used to pay for death for ienis who are poor.

Critics began complaining about 'state-subsidized suicide.' Some pharmacists said they did not want to fill lethal prescriptions. Republican leaders in the legislature began talking about revising the law. But the voters have decided, and the rules have been issued. Last week, a woman in her mid-80s, with terminal breast cancer, became the first person in Oregon to be helped to her death. She died in bed, with her family around her, half an hour after taking pills and drinking hrandy. As an alternative, it seems preferable to life extended by blind medicine, or death by Dr. Kevorkian. -THE NEW YORK TIMES.

### Other Comment Making an Impression

There was that very telling picture of an American security person passing a metal detector over a Ugandan police-man before he could be allowed to go into the enclosed area in which President Bill Clinton was to address a carefully chosen and checked audience.

Now this is not the way we do things in this part of the world. When President Nelson Mandela goes to Uganda, he addresses the people at an open-air venue and people don't have to be invited to attend. They just go to listen.

When regional leaders converged on Entebbe's Botanical Gardens for the summit, the security details of the beads of state were rendered redundant as the American security people took over.
— Sunday Nation (Nairobi).

Herald Eribune

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# Bashing Japan Isn't the Way

L OS ANGELES — Some Japanese are getting irritated with all the criticism that they are not doing enough about the Asian financial crisis. Recently an official in the Hashimoto government whom I greatly respect wrote

me to complain about a column of mine that called on Tokyo to do more. We are already doing a lot, he said, and Americans should respect the efforts of Prime

Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who has visited Indonesia and sought to persuade President Subarto, in the polite Asian way, to clean up his act. Said this Foreign Ministry official, speaking for himself but expressing a widely held view in the government:

There seems to be a stereotyped myth that only the U.S. alone has the will and the sense of mission capable of squarely confronting any kind of international crisis. "I don't dispute the integrity and leadership of the U.S.,

which is so vital, and without which any viable solution is simply a castle in the air But it is a fact that the U.S.

government and the media tend to underestimate the efforts of its ally Japan as part of a coordinated effort to convince Suharto to honor his word. This sort of thoughtfulness is not just the Asian way, but is a universally viable technique if we [U.S., Japan, IMF] hope to succeed."

Not everyone in America nomist Stanford's Lawrence J. Lau, believes that many criticisms are misconceived and

divert attention from Japan's underlying strengths, such as that giant economy's special status as the world's largest net creditor nation.

By Tom Plate

Speaking at a seminar at the UCLA Center for International Relations/Center for Pacific Rim Studies, Mr. Lan allowed that Japan's secretive banking ways were far from ideal. But, he added, "this is not something that causes recessions - on a net basis. Japan is way ahead in the positive column." When a country does not need to borrow much abroad (as did South Korea. Indonesia and Thailand), "the lack of transparency does not

matter too much."
Mr. Lan believes that even if Japan falls into serious recession ("but it will probably muddle through O.K."),
America will not seriously suffer -- except, of course, on the West Coast

He speaks with special authority. He was one of the economists to have anticipated Asia's problems, in his 1995 paper "Is There a Next Mexico in East Asia?"

But if he is wrong this time - if the trade deficit continues to soar, Japan sputters even more and the U.S. economy does brake - Americans will probably look for someone to hiame. And they may very well indict Japan for the offense of not restimulattakes an unappreciative view of ing its own economy to avoid Japan. One premier U.S. eco- recession and to help pull up other Asian nations by importing more of their goods.

They may forget that the list

play by quite the same rules. His love for Europe is not without reservation. I horrow this love stuff from the Italian columnist and author Beppe Severgnini, with whom I

Typically New British, Blair Loves and Fears Europe

doubts that across the Channel,

they're a shifty lot who don't

spent an enjoyable couple of days in Milan last week. The Italians really know how pean idealism." And indeed, in to love Europe. Italy aparabolish way, he does; he once worked in a Paris bar, and he vacations in France and Italy.

besotted; life with her bean is going to be wonderful, their house will be beautiful, they will be rich and happy forever. Britain, by contrast, is the

sensible girl who wants to look before she leaps. Is the new gone through a lackluster patch, warm south; hut as a political apartment soundly built? How was thoughtful and sensible. animal, he harbors lingering big is the mortgage? Is hus-

of culprits is quite long, in-cluding Thailand, where this

mess all started, and in fact the

United States, which should

have responded more quickly

to Bangkok's pleas last sum-mer to cool off the currency

speculation that then spread

elsewhere in Asia. But Amer-

ica has never been adverse to

If the finger-pointing does bubble back up, more than trans-Pacific feelings may be

hurt, also damaged, perhaps this time severely, will be the U.S.-Japanese relationship, the

linchpin of security in Asia.

This is why serious people on both sides of the Pacific

need to promote a thoughtful

to have this dialogue broaden-ed," says Paul Boeker, pres-ident of the Institute of the

Americas, which is monitoring

the effect of the Asian crisis on

"The great intellectuals from both countries need to

get involved, to see how Japan

can produce more growth and

been doing enough. "But say-

ing this critically of Tokyo

doesn't make us bashers.

That's just the way it is."

He agrees that Japan has not

We in America have to de-

velop the capacity to speak to

the Japanese as peers, which

of course they are, not as stu-

dents who deserve a good long

lecture. There is a nice but

effective way to say almost

everything, and Americans need to learn that lesson if

they want Japan to listen.

Los Angeles Times.

Which it really must

show more leadership."

U.S.-Japanese dialogue. "It really would be useful

Latin America.

Japan-bashing.

band-to-be being honest about his assets? Will he raid her dowry as soon as she's wearing his ring? The risk - but this you had already guessed - is that handsome Europa gets fed up with Britannia's caution, and

she dies an old maid. It is not hard to fathom why these differences should run so deep. If you had been as misgoverned by your capital as Italy has been by Rome, you would want to try something

else, too — even Brussels. For Italy, and even more for Spain, Portugal and Greece, signing on to every manifestation of the European construction is a symbol of modernity and political sophistication.

In its recent past, whether because of the memory of war, fascism, domination by a powerful neighbor or plain bad government, every country of the EU can find a decent reason for pursuing further political integration. Except Britain. (O.K., Sweden, too — a snhject for another time.) The modern British state has never had a crisis of legitimacy, although it

came pretty close in 1974. That being the case, Britons will always be able to find a degree of illegitimacy in the suggestion that they should cede powers to bodies ontside of their shores.

At the end, that is the problem that dogs British participation in European monetary union - not all that technical stuff about economic cycles being out of sync. For Britain, monetary union is a dangerous leap in the dark, an experiment that could go badly wrong.
For the rest of Europe, it is

just a part of the marriage contract - actually, the most im-

portant part, like agreeing to share the same bed. (The conmhial metaphors stop here.) If you don't sign up for mon-

etary union, you're not a real player, as French Industry Min-ister Dominique Strauss-Kahn, an engaging troublemaker, likes to remind his British friends. (In perfect English, not that anyone makes a point of it - which is the point.)

In London, ministers and civil servants are acutely aware of this. As one senior official told me last week, the task facing Britain between now and 2002, when it might — might - join monetary union, is to limit the leakage of British influence on Europe. But that there will he some leakage,

nobody in Loudon denies. It would be nice to think that all this high politics is not what Europe is really about. Instead it is more pleasant to conjure up the Europe that many already enjoy. For people younger than 30, says Carlo Bonini of the Corriere della Sera, London, Rome and Paris are like "boxes in a common space."

Soft Europe, people's Europe — Tony Blair's Europe is a place bound together hy the Eurailpass and student ex-changes, by holiday homes in Tuscany and boozing with the Germans in Majorca, by count-

ing the days to the World Cup. But hard Europe, text-andtreaties Europe, everywhere-but-Britain Europe, is a place where membership of a cluh founded on idealism imposes political obligations.

No amount of abstract nouns gets you round that uncomfortable truth, whether or not you speak them in perfect French.

### IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Queen's Efforts VIENNA --- So far only Austria

and France are participating in the mediation of the Powers between the United States and Spain. An exchange of des-patches is proceeding between the Queen-Regent of Spain and the Vienna Cabinet, and it is stated that the Queen is striving at any price to preserve the peace, as any unfortunate issue to a war would seriously endanger her dynasty. On the other hand again it appears questionable whether the Queen-Regent would be able, in the event of affairs coming to an extremity, to oppose public opinion without menacing her own position.

1923: Yugoslav Parties

BELGRADE — The opening of Parliament is fixed for April 16, when the position of parties is critical form. The Peasant Party pay too many taxes.

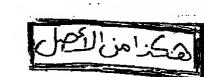
of Croatia has joined the Slovene Clerical and the Bosnian Mussulman parties in forming a "re-visionist" bloc, which includes 116 Deputies. The latter will endeavor to revise the Constitution in the sense of complete autonomy of the different provinces. The Government counts on the support of 197 Deputies hostile to such revision.

1948: Slayings in Italy ROME - The heads of Italy's

 $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{F}} = \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{F}} \cup \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{F}}$ 

police and armed forces were summoned to a conference on public order when news reached Rome of at least seven apparently political slayings in the past twenty-four hours. The disorders were probably the worst since this country began its critical national election campaign. Throughout Italy Communists have charged as an important part of their camexpected to assume a novel and paign that the poor are made to





INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1998

المتخاص الأجل

They would like milling being the common policies not some starting of the control of the contro · world . have . THE WOLLD'S THE PARTY

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# OPINION/LETTERS

# Iran and America City-County Metroplexes'

By David S. Broder

California were a nation, it would boast the seventh-largest economy in the world, larger than China's and just a bu behind

It is a bit more shocking to discover that the Sacramento metropolitan area by itself outranks the economics of 14 states and ranks right up there with Ukraine. Iran and the Czech Republic.

I learned this at a Washington briefing designed to focus the attention of press and politicians on the critical role of cities and their surrounding counties as the great engines of the new U.S. economy

The study prepared by the con-sulting firm DRI/McGraw-Hill offers an unconventional perspeclive on the world. We are accustomed to maps with national and state boundaries, but in the real world of work and jobs, income and wealth, it is the metro areas - center cities with at least 50,000 people and counties that are part of the same economic nexus — that drive the train.

The Census Bureau and the Office of Management and Budget list 314 such areas. They occupy only one-sixth of the United States but contain 80 percent of the population, and provide 84 percent of the jobs and 83 percent of the gross domestic product.

Eight out of 10 new jobs created from 1992 to 1997 are located in those areas, and the average wage and benefit package for the metro area worker is almost 50 percent higher than for the small-town or rural counterpart.

Sacramento is actually pretty far down the list of metro areas, ranking 36th in the nation and eighth in California in its output of goods and services. Los Angeles-Long Beach, the state's No. 1 "metroplex," is higger than Taiwan, Switzerland, Belgium or Sweden.

These comparisons serve to buttress the demands of mayors and county officials, for whom the report was prepared, for an increased voice in the policy decisions that affect the future of the whole country. It is a demand neither group has been able to assert effectively when acting in isolation.

Now they are coming together in an alliance that could actually

WASHINGTON — It is not a change the dynamics of federal and state decision-making.

and state decision-making.

"These figures shocked some of us." said Kenneth Barr, mayor of Fort Worth, Texas, "We have such a hard fight in Congress and the stateliouse for our share of the dollars."

Because that fight has been so difficult, in 1997 the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the caucus of large urban counties within the National Association of County Officials formed the Joint Ceoter on Sustainable Communities. The two groups have begun to lobby together on easing federal mandates, improving the allocation of transportation funds, cleaning up polluted work sites and making the transition from welfare to work.

Cooperation in Washingtoo is

still tentative and episodic, and at the state and local levels, political rivalry between center cities and their suburbs can be pretty fierce. But that, too, may be changing. Myron Orfield, a political scientist in Minnesota, has written a book, "Metro Politics." arguing that new coalitions are forming between cities and inner-ring suburbs because they share the same problems: congested traffic, aging in-

frastructure and troubled schools. Neal R. Peirce, who follows urban affairs more closely than any other journalist and who spotted this trend long ago, also has warned that with growth exploding on the fringes of many metropolitan areas, the challenge of finding regional solutions gets tougher all the time.

Bruce Katz, a former Housing and Urban Development Department official who now works at the Brookings Institution, agrees.

Collaboration will take you only so far," he said. "At some point, for metropolitanism to mean something it has to hring changes in federal and state law. What is promising is that these movements are creating a coalition clamoring for change."

Representative Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, founder of a year-old House caucus to promote livable communities and sustainable growth, says he sees things "moving in the right direction."

"It is," he says, "one of the few unifying things emerging in The Washington Post.



Paula Jones story by latest set of lawyers'

# Out of Touch, Clichéd and Pretentious, Academe Turns Off Students in Droves

SANTA CRUZ, California — Not one of the many book-stores in this bookish town still has a shelf for literary criticism. Yet more of it is being published than ever before, by university presses that say such works often sell no more than 500 copies each.

This discrepancy points up the enormous gulf that has opened between the American reading public and academic scholars in the last 20 years.

The public, which counts on

professors to give its children a liberal education, is losing con-fidence in teachers. So are stu-dents, who have been voting with their feet: The proportion of un-dergraduate majors in fields like English, history and foreign languages and literatures is about half what it was in the early 1970s.

In the 1960s, when a distinguished critic gave a public lecture at the University of California's Berkeley campus, for example, much of his audience would come from the surrounding community. But it has been a long time since academic literary criticism was a vital part of the broader world.

This is the result of the intense academic concern with race, gender and social class, together with the rigid dogmas that go under the name of postmodernism.

assume that I've said "yes."

advantage of a low-level clerk?

Talk about inequality in a rela-

tionship. Can we no longer de-

deed appears to be: disgusting

behavior by someone who should

NANCY LLOYD.

Hong Kong.

know better?

By John M. Ellis

On campus, the new regime has powerful mystique because it promotes allegedly cutting-edge modern theory, historically and politically attuned. Those who do oot speak the latest arcane language are dismissed as unsoph-

**MEANWHILE** 

isticated, out of date and morally

And so the question arises: If these professors are so confident about their ideas, why don't they try harder to explain themselves to the reading public?

The answer may lie in the fact that they are not really confident at all, and with good reasoo. Their vanoted ideas are in fact a selfcontradictory muddle.

The confusion begins with a drastic misconception about the Western tradition. Members of the new academic elite denounce the tradition's ostensible sexism and racism, and they champion other cultures as a corrective. But they have it backward. Far from being ultramodern and noo-Western, these criticisms are actually examples of a very familiar form of Western extremism.

Consider the popular "new" idea that high culture is an instrument by which the ruling class

retains control over society.

That idea originated with cry for more punishment, but a would still prefer that men give me Rousseau, and the contribution of high-culture thinkers to the French Revolution proved just And a powerful chief taking how wrongheaded it was.

Today's cultural relativism taccording to which cultures can be judged only by their own stanclare something to be what it indards) was thought up by the 18th century German philosopher Herder, and even the inconsistency of today's academics in attacking the elitism of their own high culture is unoriginal - that. too, was Herder's stance. So much The common sense of Gloria for historical awareness.

Steinem and Anita Hill — who said that President Bill Clinton's Time and again, the daring claims of theoretical sopbistica-tion have turned out to be inalleged contacts with Kathleen Willey were objectionable hut did tellectual clichés.

Scholars are especially satisfied at having "problematized" (they just mean "questioned" I the idea of truth. Don't they know that the long history of Western philosophy is filled with such questioning?

doubts about truth are both shallow and inconsistent. Their interest in skepticism extends no further than deriding views they do not share, yet they are passionately devoted to their own

At every level, the new orthodoxy is characterized by self-deception. It is aggressively egalitarian in theory but exists largely in the ivory tower. It claims political awareness but completely lucks political realism. It claims to have escaped from a "discourse" that traps the rest of us in traditional thought, yet nothing is more rigid and limiting than its

own self-invented discourse. It claims to value diversity, yet its obsession with the idea of oppression prevents any appreciation of the enormous diversity of ideas in the Western traditioo.

It promises to advance the interests of minority groups and women yet hinders them by diverting them from a grounding in the great thought and literature of the civilization in which they live.

Most baffling of all is the belief that it is sophisticated thinking, not crude reductionism, to identify power as the deepest motivation.

Meanwhile, public support for the humanities continues to erode. Many in academia complain about the growth in public sentiment for narrowly vocational education, but the complainers refuse to accept their own responsibility for this turn of events.

It is they who have led the way in denigrating Western humanism and high culture, and who have driven students away from the

The current orthodoxy is a disgrace that universities can oo longer afford to protect. Changing it will require pressure from the entire community that cares about education — faculty members, alumni, students, regents, tuitionpaying parents and taxpayers.

But let us also hope that help will come, too, from the many humanides professors who have understood that what has been going on is foolish but who have lacked the courage, so far, to speak up. !

The writer is the author of "Libcrature Lost; Social Agendas and the Corruption of the Humanities." He contributed this com-Unlike their predecessors, their ment to The New York Times.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Arkansas Killings

There are many who share responsibility with the 11- and 13year-old perpetrators of the assault on children and their teachers at a school in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Not least of them are the family members who kept weapons at home. Then there is the National Rifle Association, which in its blind greed insists on Americans' "right to bear arms."

What about obeying an older law: "Thou shalt not kill"?

LARRY BELMONT. Monaco.

The guns that killed the chil-dren and their teacher in Arkansas were owned by the grandfather of one of the boys.

Anyone who owns a weapon should be held responsible for any act committed with it. This is not a unliberated as it may seem. I

demand for responsibility, both a chance to say "no" before they from individuals and — forlorn assume that I've said "yes." hope - politicians. JOE WILLIAMS.

Düsseldorf.

One might debate forever whether the two children arrested in the Arkansas shootings should be tried as mioors or as adults. But it is really the state of Arkansas that should be on trial. The state's firearms laws, along with parental carelessness, groom children to be potential killers.

JOAQUIN GODOY. Bath, England.

Women and Clinton

Regarding "Clinton, Sex and Sense" (Opinion, March 24) by Gloria Steinem:

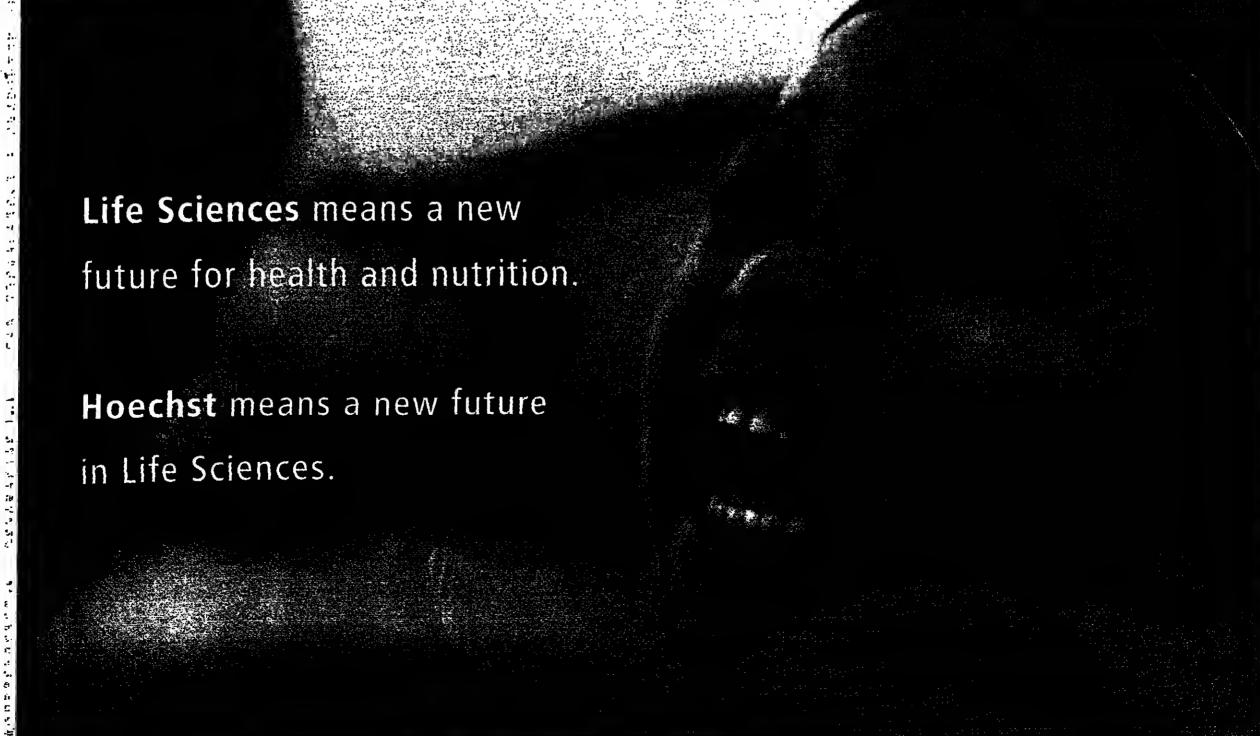
not constitute harassmeot ("Lewinsky's Father Rips Into Storr." March 24) — was a welcome

change from the usual commen-

tary. Bravo! TOMMY KLINGVALL Ibiza, Spain.

> Hoechst The Future in Life Sciences

For Hoechst, Life Sciences means focusing on the fields of health and nutrition where biotechnology holds the key to innovation. Hoechst Marion Roussel, our pharmaceutical company, is developing highly effective drugs in the fight against currently incurable diseases. Our agribusiness, Hoechst Schering AgrEvo, Is ensuring nutrition for the world's growing population through integrated crop production.



**But President Declines** To Endorse a Successor. Not Even Chernomyrdin

> By Michael R. Gordon New York Times Service

MOSCOW - Boris Yeltsin said Monday that he would not run for relection in 2000, throwing the door open to a bevy of would be-successors.

Since be dismissed his cabinet last week there was heen considerable speculation that Mr. Yeltsin was laying the ground work for a third term in office hy ridding the government of bis heir-ap-parent: Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin.

But Monday, Mr. Yeltsin said he was dropping out of the presidential race. At the same time, the 67-year-old president refrained from endorsing any of the po-

Mr. Yeltsin's comments punctuated a bewildering week in Russian politics, which saw the departure of top aides, the appointment of a 35-year-old technocrat as prime minister and announcement by Mr. Chernomyrdin that he would run for the presidency and begin to criticize the

Mr. Yeltsin has sent mixed signals regarding his future ambidons. Last year, he initially indicated he did not plan a third presidential term. But in October, he declined to exclude the op-

The shock waves of the cahinet disthroughout Moscow, as Mr. Yeltsin continued to flesh out his new regime.

Sergei Stepashin, the current justice ernment for Northern Ireland. minister and former aide who encourplace of the hawkish Anatoli Kulikov.

prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko. But they stopped short of threatening a showdown over his appointment.

The Communist leader, Gennadi Zyuganov, said that Mr. Yeltsin should withdraw the appointment until Mr. Yeltsin and the opposition has discussed the government's new appointments. Mr. Yeltsin said, however, that be expected Mr. Kiriyenko to be approved.

Under Russia's law, Mr. Yeltsin can call for new parliamentary elections if the legislature three times rejects his choice for prime minister. Most analysts say that the parliamentary deputies are not eager to risk their jobs and perquisites in an early election.

Article 81 of the Russian Constitution

limits anyone from serving as president for more than two consecutive terms. But Mr. Yeltsin's aides claim to have found a loophole in the law.

They say that that constitution went into effect during Mr. Yeltsin's first term of office. Since Mr. Yeltsin has only been elected once under the current constitution, they say, he should be free to run again. Given Mr. Yeltsin's attacbment to power and his intolerance for anyone who seems to encroach on his authority few would be surprised if he changed his mind.

Mr. Yeltsin discussed his plans Monday before meeting with Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations. Mr. Yeltsin sought to defend his decision to dismiss Mr. Chemomyrdin from the post of prime minister and reassign him to the vague joh of preparing for the 2000 presidential elec-

"We need a strong leader for that," Mr. Yeltsin said, referring to Mr. Chemomyrdin's new position. "And considering that I am dropping out of the

Continued from Page 1

About half Japan's manufacturing capacity is geared for export, including such components and materials as steel and plastics that go into finished goods like

cars and machinery, said Michael Naldrett, an economist at Dresdner.

seas shipments go to Thailand, South

Korea, Indonesia and elsewhere in Asia.

Those exports have slumped for the past

six months as economic growth

throughout the region slowed to a crawl.

As a result. "production is on a down-trend," said Hideo Nakanishi, manager

in the Trade Ministry's statistics office.

which the unemployment rate climbed to a record 3.6 percent and retail sales

mid-April, just after Parliament passes

Some Liberal Democratic legislators.

next year's budget, they added.

The output figures follow downbear

About 40 percent of the nation's over-

Kleinwort, Benson (Asia) Ltd.

Exports to one of Japan's key overseas



THAWED OUT - Cadets from the Mojaysky Military Space Academy in Russia returning Monday front a failed ski training trip at St. Petersburg. The training was canceled because the snow had melted.

# **Marathon Peace Talks Start in Belfast**

BELFAST - Northern Ireland's political parties began a last-ditch round of talks on Monday to meet an April 9
deadline for a political settlement to end
three decades of conflict.

George Mitchell, the former U.S. sen-

ator who is chairing the talks, has set the missal continued to reverberate deadline for the British and Irish governments and eight parties to reach agreement on a new system of gov-

Negotiators are expected to work aged Mr. Yeltsin to begin Russia's dis-astrous war against Chechen separatists, was named interior minister. He took the only to eat and sleep.

The Irish government do not view In the Parliament, the Communists these negotiations as a win-lose conrailed against Mr. Yelisin's choice as test," Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland told British and Irish lawmakers at a conference in rural County Cavan. Ireland "We simply do not have the luxury of more time," he said. "Time is very much the enemy in a situation where

through the stepping up of violence."

The negotiations at Stormont, the center of British administration in east Belfast, are supposed to be reinforced by cease-fires by Northern Ireland's major

paramilitary groups.

The Irish Republican Army, supported hy militant Catholics, has held fire for eight months; the Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force, rooted in pro-British Protestant areas, have maintained an October 1994 truce. But members of both camps have vi-

olated the truces sporadically. And dissident gangs opposed to the talks have committed a series of sectarian killings.

The latest victim, a retired Protestant policeman sbot outside a supermarket. was buried Sunday. A small anti-British group called the Irish National Liber-

ation Army claimed responsibility. The outline of a political settlement has been evident since the British and the opponents of peace are actively seek- lrish governments published joint rec- resolved.

ing to make agreement impossible ommendations in January. The governments want Protestants and Catholics to govern Northern Ireland in a coalition and simultaneously send representatives to a new cross-border council with lawmakers from the Irish Republic.

Participants in the talks consider such an accord possible between the two largest parties: the Ulster Unionists on the Protestant side and the Social Democratic and Labor Party on the Roman Catholic side. A longer shot would be an agreement that includes both the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein, which seeks the end of Northern Ireland's separation from the rest of Ireland.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain met with the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, at the prime minister's official country retreat, Chequers But as Mr. Trimble arrived at Stormont, he said there was only "a possibility" that his party's disagree-ments with Catholic leaders could be (AP. Reuters)

# Military in Indonesia Begins Sifting Returnees

JAKARTA — The military said Monday that it was questioning hundreds of Indonesians who were deported from Malaysia about whether they belong to a movement fighting for independence for the province of Aceh.

A regional military spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Agus Ramadan, said that

An Indonesian Navy ship brought more than 500 deportees to Lhokseumawe on Friday, a day after n riot at a the death: of eight Indonesians and one metowns.

Kuala Lumpur for inciting trouble at the Major General T. Rizal Nurdin, the

northern Sumatran military chief, was quoted by the Indonesian newspaper Suara Karya as having said that some the Indonesian deportees were being suspected Acehnese rebels were probquestioned in Lhokseumawe, a port ably among the newly arrived de-

General Nurdin said those who supported the rebel group would be counseled to give up the secessionist detention camp in Malaysia resulted in cause before being returned to their ho-

aratists, reportedly afraid of being re- involved in criminal activity will be turned to Indonesia, bave been blamed in handed over to the police, the general

Human rights groups say some de-portees are Acehnese nationalists who fled their bomeland on the northern tip of Sumatra Island after a military crackdown in the early 1990s.

The United Nations then declared the Acehnese people refugees.

Aceh is one of three regions in Indonesia where separatists are fighting for independence. The two others are East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, and Irian Jaya, a former Dutch colony in the western part of New Guinea.

# MALAYSIA: Appealing for Asylum, 12 Crash Into UN's Office

Continued from Page 1

had escaped from a detention center during the riots Thursday and that they were from Aceh, the region in northern Sumatra where separatists have been waging a campaign for independence since the 1970s.

Hundreds of Acehnese fled to Malaysia - a short boat ride across the Strait of Malacca -- several years ago to escape fighting between the Indonesian Army and separatists and many Acehnese say
they will be persecuted if they are sent in Malaysia and Singapore say that at

including the chairman of the Policy Research Council, Taku Yamasaki,

hope to limit a tax cut to 2 trillion yen,

hack home. Malaysia has ignored releast 30 Acehnese died during or folquests from the high commissioner to allow officials to speak to the hundreds of Acehnese detained in camps. The UN has classified the Acehnese as political

refugees.
"We wanted to examine their cases before, but we were denied access," said Mr. Koefner.

These people feel they are in danger of being deported. And they feel they are in danger if they return.'

Malaysian police said that five detainees were killed during the riots, two during hand-to-hand combat with the police, and that three died during deportation.

lowing the riots Thursday.

"They knew they bad nothing to lose," said Elizabeth Wong, a spokesman for Suaram, a human rights group that has followed the plight of the

You either die here or you die

# SWISS: Differences on Holocaust Accord

Continued from Page 1

danger, that which is allowed to happen to the banks could also, by a different token, happen to industry, insurance companies or the National Bank."

This latest outpouring is part of the long-running "Nazi gold" affair that, over the last two years, has inspired the threat of broad U.S. economic sanctions against the country's three biggest banks Union Bank of Switzerland, Credit Suisse and Swiss Bank Corp. — over allegations that they profited from the

To stave off both class-action suits demanding \$20 billion in compensation and the threat of sanctions, the banks agreed last week to negotiate a broad settlement of the claims with plaintiffs' lawyers and the Wnrld Jewish Congress under the aegis of Smart Eizenstat, U.S. undersecretary of state for economic af-

Those negotiations are set to resume April 24. Mr. Eizenstat was widely quoted here as calling the negotiations a breakthrough that would lead to a "rough-justice fund" for claims arising from the Holocaust.

Only one day later, however, the three banks issued a little-noticed statement insisting that the aim of the negotiations was a comprehensive resolution to this issue as it directly relates to the banks.

Additionally, the statement said, "These issues can only be answered within the context of the Volcker Commission inquiry," referring to an investigation, beaded by Paul Volcker, the former head of the U.S. Federal Reserve. into thousands of accounts in Swiss banks that have been dormant, closed or emptied since World War II.

After stonewalling for years, the Swiss banks said last year that such accounts contain the equivalent of about \$50 million — far less than either the amount mentioned in class-action suits or the S1 billion to \$3 hillion reportedly under consideration in the "roughjustice fund."

By invoking the Volcker inquiry which is not set to conclude its investigations until next year — the Swiss banks were clearly narrowing the focus of the newest agreement while avoiding an assessment of their likely obligations. 'Financial aspects have not been discussed," the statement said.

Michael Willi, a spokesman for Swiss Bank Corp. in Basel, said the banks did not accept culpability in relation to slave labor and felt that looted gold that came their way in the early 1940s represented only a small part of the overall amounts of gold stolen by the Nazis from central banks and individuals.

"Our main emphasis is the dormant accounts."

accounts," be said. In last-minute negotiations before the agreement Thursday, lawyers for the Swiss banks and the class-action plaintiffs are reported to have drawn up a six-page agreement covering the areas of dispute, including the profits from slave labor and looted

One Swiss banking official, who would be a bit less expensive and sporspoke on condition of anonymity, said, tier than traditional Rollses. The combowever, that the agreement was labeled draft" and "working paper" and did number of cars it sells to about 6,000,

not constitute a deal. The notion of a "global settlement" of Switzerland's disputes with Holocaust survivors was first aired last December. At that time, U.S. Jewisb organizations seemed to be canvassing the idea of a broad settlement to end all the disputes.

However, said Thomas Borer, a diplomat who beads a Swiss government task force on the issue, Switzerland bad long made it clear "that there's no taxpayer money that can be involved in a

rough-justice fund." During World War II, the Swiss Nanional Bank received the bulk of the looted and other gold that the Nazi au-

thorities shipped ont of Germany.
The Swiss National Bank, too, is opposed to making contributions to Holocaust survivors beyond those it has already made — about \$70 million — to

the \$180 million fund. The fund is one of several measures

Continued from Page 1

in economic terms, and that to refuse to open talks would ning out. But equally important, BMW is be seen as a concession to Turkey, which has occupied the northern part of the island in defiance of UN resolutions cars, and it already has business ries with

The Turkish-Cypriot government has spurned an invitation to the enlargement talks, saying that it must be considered as an equal to the Greek-Cypriot majority. In December, EU leaders in effect rejected Turkey for

To help the candidate countries prepare for mem-bership, the EU is offering multilateral and bilateral aid, and low-interest, long-repayment loans. This includes 9 billion European currency units (\$9.8 hillion) in technical and financial aid between now and 2000 to help the candidates modernize and reform their economies, institutions and legislation.

For all of the prospective members, joining the EU will entail writing some 80,000 pages of European laws and regulations into their respective national legal

that banks and officials have undertaken to counter criticism of their warting

behavior. A commission is supposed to issue an initial report soon on gold dealings between the National Bank and Hitler's landela Insi

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BIR W. Apple

Additionally, the authorities have proposed revaluing gold reserves to yield a \$4.7 billion investment fund whoseearnings would provide help to Holocaust survivors along with other victimes of persecution.

Preparations for that fund, called the property of the particular Solidarity Foundation — which would: require a national referendum — have slipped and many Swiss politicians said that the agreement struck in New York! would probably torpedo the idea.

# **ROLLS:** Britons Lament Loss is

Continued from Page 1

the news Monday morning. A rivab group of Rolls-Royce fans did submit 22 bid, but were outgunned by BMW.

Though Rolls-Royce is a minusculer player when ranked by sales in the world!

automobile market — it produced about 1,900 cars last year, selling for about \$250,000 each — its stature as a globali brand, a status symbol and as a British

national institution is unique. When Rolls-Royces have been owned and beloved by the former Shah of Irano Elvis Presley, Lawrence of Arabia and of course, the British royal family. The late John Lennon bought a Silver Shad-a ow in the 1960s and had it painted in sychedelic colors.

Through all the ups and downs of global competition and the British empire, the company somehow sustained the image of hand-assembled cars built?

for kings and nobility. !?
After nearly going bankrupt in the!
early 1970s and then being acquired by: Vickers for £38 million in 1980, the company bad slowly battled its way back to profitability. But Vickers, a manufacturer of military equipment, and nounced last autumn that if would selld the car business and refocus on its coren

Rolls-Royce, the automobile comas pany, was separated from the aerospaceli company still known as Rolls-Roycev PLC The acrospace company is not? as on its own terms, rather thanging hands, but did have a rights; indicated solely by American which it did not exercise, to block their transfer of the Rolls-Royce name to any bi at its critics in the government had

Both BMW and Volkswagen nowd are would compromise the same want to enter the rarefied nicbe market of anny of African governments by super-luxury automobiles. Mercedeste ming American markets completely owned by Daimler-Benz, is pushing ino hothose countries the United State the same direction with plans to launch avi line of big sedans in 2000.

BMW executives said Monday they wanted to invest about \$600 million in Rolls-Royce over the next 10 years and launch two new automobile lines.

Analysts infer that the new models and that it can generate big savings by improving the way Rolls-Royce purchases parts.

investors reacted coolly to BMW's victory. BMW shares initially jumped 30 Deutsche marks to 2,120 DM (\$1,160) on the Frankfurt stock exchange, hut settled back to 2,060 DM.

Analysts said the Rolls-Royce purchase would have little meaningful impact on the company's overall performance. BMW's sales and earnings have soared in the last year, largely because of a big surge in exports in response to a

stronger U.S. dollar.
Although both Vickers and BMW portrayed their agreement as tantamount to a done deal, it is still possible that disgruntled losers in the auction will counterattack.

The main critics are Rolls-Royce enthusiasts in Britain, who loathe the idea of selling one of Britain's crown jewels to a German company. "After Coca-Cola, this was probably the world's largest marque, and now the British are losing it," said Peter Baines, head of the EU: Talks Open on Expansion Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club.

Vickers said the BMW offer was the highest bid, and that serious contenders should have known that time was run-Rolls-Royce. BMW produces the engines used in the new Silver Seraph, along with other components.

Vickers executives also said that all bidders had a fair chance to submit offers, hut that they had a strong preference for selling the company to a well-established automobile manufacturer that could carry the venerable motorcars into

the next century.
"The last thing we want is for Rolls-Royce to become a hobbyists' club." said Brigitte Daniels, a spokeswoman for Vickers in London. "The most important thing is 10 make sure that this great name carries on for as many more years as it has already.'

# OIL: In Nigeria, a Leading Petroleum Producer, Corruption and Mismanagement Cause Shortages of Gasoline

Continued from Page 1

grid and telephones - barely function. The govsales price of 52 cents a gallon — about nine cents of which goes to the state oil company. Company officials say that cannot even cover the cost of producing gasoline, much less maintain the re-fineries. The Finance Ministry says the company has lost, stolen or squandered more than \$2 billion recent years - hut the company insists it never got

Amid the squabble, no one has been prosecuted, and the refineries have creaked to a near hali. government hudget deficit, the legis-lators said. That decision will be made in Nigerian analysts and foreign diplomats say Nigeria keeps its gasoline cheap partly as a sop to public opinion — but largely because that lets corrupt officials and their business partners resell

Nigeria's gasoline abroad, or on the hlack market, where it fetches about \$5.70 a gallon.

Since General Sant Abacha took power in a 1993 coup, his government increasingly has funneled the oil trade -- exports of crude and imports of refined products — through a few favored traders, say Nigerian journalists and oil tradets. The unders pay kickbacks for lucrative government contracts to import gasoline, kerosene and diesel fuel, the sources said.

This makes them a lot of money while millions of Nigerians queue up for gas," a journalist said. Of course, the details are kept secret, and we will end up in jail if we publish even what we do

Nigeria has hudgeted \$600 million to import refined products hetween January and September. Paradoxically, said Nigeria's Oil and Gas

amount would have breathed life into two of the from day to day which employees will make it to four refineries, which "have been lying prostrate work. for more than three years."

become a crisis, Nigerians grimly struggle to survive. For most of Lagos's estimated & million people, the only way to move across this sprawling, smoggy metropolis is by car or in one of thousands of yellow taxi vans that bounce along the broad, weedy highways and narrow city

But these days the Lagos gas stations, and the streets around them, have become live-in parking lots. Hundreds of cars are jammed, humper to fender, in lines that snake from the pumps into the

Monthly a trade journal less than half of that closed and others run shorthanded, not knowing all day.

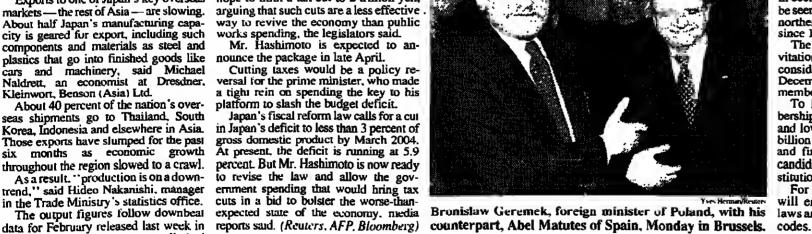
Last weekend, after some drivers bad spent two This month, as the fuel shortage has again to three days in line and riots had erupted, the military governor of Lagos State. Colonel Mohammed Marwa, said on television that "the bead of state is unhappy about this suffering" and "has directed that we must resume normal supply."

Authorities said they had 4 million gallons of gas for the city, and Colonel Marwa sent state officials and extra police to supervise distribution.

By Friday, tanker trucks bad delivered three loads to a Unipetrol station in northern Lagos, and the lines of cars were inching forward. Drivers filled their tanks and roared away, exultant. But from across the street, other drivers lined up outside an Elf gas station watched glumly. They still were half of capacity or less. Many businesses stay waiting for a truckload they said bad been promised

fell 2.7 percent. U.S. officials have led calls for tax cuts in Japan to encourage consumer spending and bring down Tokyo's huge trade surplus with the United States. The pressure to cut taxes increased after the Liberal Democratic Party proposed a 16 trillion yen (\$124.8 billion) economic stimulus package Thursday that did not include such measures. But Liberal Democratic legislators said Monday that the party was considering cuning incomes taxes next year. possibly by more than 3 trillion yen. To in government allocations for maintenance work in finance additional tax cuts, the party and the government will decide to ease targets adopted last year for cutting the

JAPAN: Woes Lift Outlook for Cuts in Taxes





streets and out exit ramps onto highways. Factories are running, by various estimates, at

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# ifferences on Holocaust Accord The last of the same of the sa U.S. Offers Partnership, and the supposed to the supposed by the suppos But South Africa Is Wary The substitution of the su Mandela Insists on Imposing Own Terms

By R. W. Apple Jr.

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ROLLS:

Litton which a live to see the see se JOHANNESBURG - One of the ceotral themes of President Bill Clinton's trip to Africa is partnership, which is widely welcomed bere as a break with the paternalism of the past.

But as the president departed from South Africa on Sunday for Botswana, he left behind a major question: What

### **NEWS ANALYSIS**

Britons Lament Los kind of partnership? The United States is so rich and so powerful that it can all but crush the comparatively tiny nations and economies of this continent in its

Recognitioning a second of the A determination to avoid this lay behind President Nelson Mandela's unequivocal statements last week that South Africa would choose its friends as it saw fit, whatever Washington may think about Cuba, Iran or Libya, and that his government found unacceptable the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a trade bill that has passed the House and is awaiting Senate approval.

Mr. Clinton did not hridle at Mr. Mandela's blunt if affectionate language. Indeed, he spoke in poetic terms of the South African's nobility of character in his toast at a state banquet.

Recalling Mr. Mandela's 27 years as a poliocal prisoner, Mr. Clintoo said. Though you were locked in prison for a loog time, you opeoed others' minds and hearts."

On an emotional level, most South Africans welcomed Mr. Clinton equally warmly. He was compared by many older people here to his political hero, John F. Kennedy — the last American president to take a broad interest in

Yet for all the expressions of mutual respect, the disagreements are real, and the South Africans, proud of their new freedom, are unwilling to be treated as a mere surrogate.

Mr. Mandela made it clear, said an approving editorial in the Sunday Independent newspaper, that South Africa wanted "a relationship with the United States on its own terms, rather than terms dictated solely by America's selfinterest."

The trade bill backed by the president, its critics in the government here believe, woold compromise the sovereignty of African governments by opening American markets completely only to those countries the United States judged to have embraced political and

economic reform fully enough. That might penalize countries that choose to follow a path not approved by the In-ternational Monetary Fund, for example. To Mr. Mandela and others here,

that smacks too much of colonialism. In addition, the singling out of a halfdozen or more countries for special treatment would make the achievement of African unity, already problematical, almost impossible. By choosing six reforming countries

10 visit on this trip, Mr. Clinton strengthens the hand of a new generation of African leaders and encourages others to emulate them. But at the same time bis policies could push countries like Nigeria deeper into isolation. Finally, the South Africans worry that the trade bill could sharply increase

the power of multinational companies at

the expense of the fledgling African Another dimension to the disagree-ment, only hinted at in public these last few days, is the balance between trade and aid. Mr. Clinton has promised to try to restore aid to its historically highest levels, but that will be hard to do in the present political climate in the United

South Africa's deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, Mr. Mandela's anointed

States. It is not easy for the South Af-

ricans to understand this, given the stag-

gering dimensions of American



President Bill Clinton greeting students in Kasane, Botswana as he continued his tour of Africa.

successor, pushed hard during a meeting with Mr. Clinton for more aid, arguing that trude alone is likely to prolong African economies' reliance on the export of raw materials rather than more profitable finished products.

What South Africa thinks matters.

and oot only because of Mr. Mandela's stature as a world leader. Mr. Clinton avoided Gabon, Nigeria

and Angola oo this trip; they have govemments that fall well short of Washington's criteria for acceptability. But with South Africa, they account for 84

perceot of U.S. trade with sub-Saharan Africa. A trade bill that excluded all

That gives Mr. Clinton and Congress reason to see what they can do to meet Mr. Mandela's objections.

four, for one reason or another, would not amount to much.

# Elias Freij, Moderate Mayor of Bethlehem, Dies at 80

BETHLEHEM - Elias Freij, 80, the longtime mayor of this holy city and the standard-bearer of Palestinian moderation, died Sunday in a hospital in Amman, Jordan, of kidney and heart failure.

The mayor of Bethlehem for 25 years, Mr. Freij emerged once a year into the world limelight as the caretaker of Jesus's hirthplace and as host to an annual Christmas Eve party outside the Church of the Nativity that drew thousands of pilgrims. In failing health, he retired last year.

When Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, set up an autonomous govern-meot in 1994, Mr. Freij became minister of tourism. In December 1995, he presided over the first Christmas in Bethlehem under Palestinian rule, days after Israeli troops pulled out of the city, which they had occupied since the 1967

As a Palestinian statesman, Mr. Freij was constantly sought out by visiting dignitaries or would-be peacemakers to hear bis theme that Arab-Israeli coexistence was needed.

"I doubt if anyone in the Middle East wants peace more than I do," said Mr. Freij, who was chosen to be a member of the Palestinian negotiating team sent to the Madrid peace conference in 1991.

But his influence in the West Bank did not always reflect his popularity on the diplomatic circuit. At various times, his moderate views earned him the enmity of both the Israeli government and leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A Greek Orthodox Christian, Mr. Freij came from a family that traced its ancestry in Bethlehem back 500 years. He expressed concern about the dwindling Christian population of the city of

50,000, where Muslims now outnumber Christians by 2 to 1.

Mr. Freij owned a string of shops that sold olive wood and mother-of-pearl souvenirs. But politics was his main occupation since he was first elected to the Bethlehem town council in 1963, when the city was under Jordanian

He became mayor in 1972, five years after Israel occupied Bethlehem and the rest of the Jordanian West Bank, and was re-elected in 1976, the last year municipal elections were held.

Rainer Pawkowicz, 54, Official Of Rightist Party in Austria VIENNA (AP) - Rainer Pawkowicz.

54, who led Austria's far-right party to its strongest showing in Viennese elections, has died of a brain tun.or, the state news agency APA reported Monday.

The Vienna native joined the rightist Freedom Party in 1971 and served in numerous leadership positions, including as a deputy in Parliament for a year.

Uoder his leadership, the party won 27.9 percent of the vote in Viennese elections in 1996.

Karsten Prager, 61, Time Editor RICHMOND (AP) - Karsten Prager, 61. Time Internacional's managing editor from 1991 to 1995, died at a hospital here on March 23. He had

been undergoing treatment for cancer. Mr. Prager began his career in Thai-land for the English-language Bangkok World and worked for The Associated Press in Southeast Asia. In the 1970s, he was Time's bureau chief in San Francisco, Beirut and Madrid. He became international editor in 1980 and retired last year as editor at large.

### BRIEFLY

### Troops Said to Kill 100 Algeria Rebels

PARIS — Algeriao troops have killed more than 100 rebels in a new offensive on guerrilla strongholds in western Algeria, an Algerian

newspaper reported Monday.

Artillery pounded the rebels on Ouarsenis Mountain in the western province of Relizane, 270 kilomeiers from Algiers, and then troops stormed the trapped men, the daily L'Authentique said.

The offensive began March 24, after the authorities were alerted by two girls who bad been abducted by the rebels but escaped, the paper said, adding that the military operation was continuing. (Remers)

### Doctors' Warning On Trial of Botha

CAPE TOWN - Former President Pieter Botha may not be well enough to stand trial for defying a commission that is investigating human-rights abuses in the apartheid era, two medical experts

said Monday. Dr. Derek Philcox and Dr. Jacquez de Villiers, retired braio specialists, presented affidavits to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission expressing doubts about the ability of Mr. Botha, 82, to face a criminal trial. He suffered a stroke

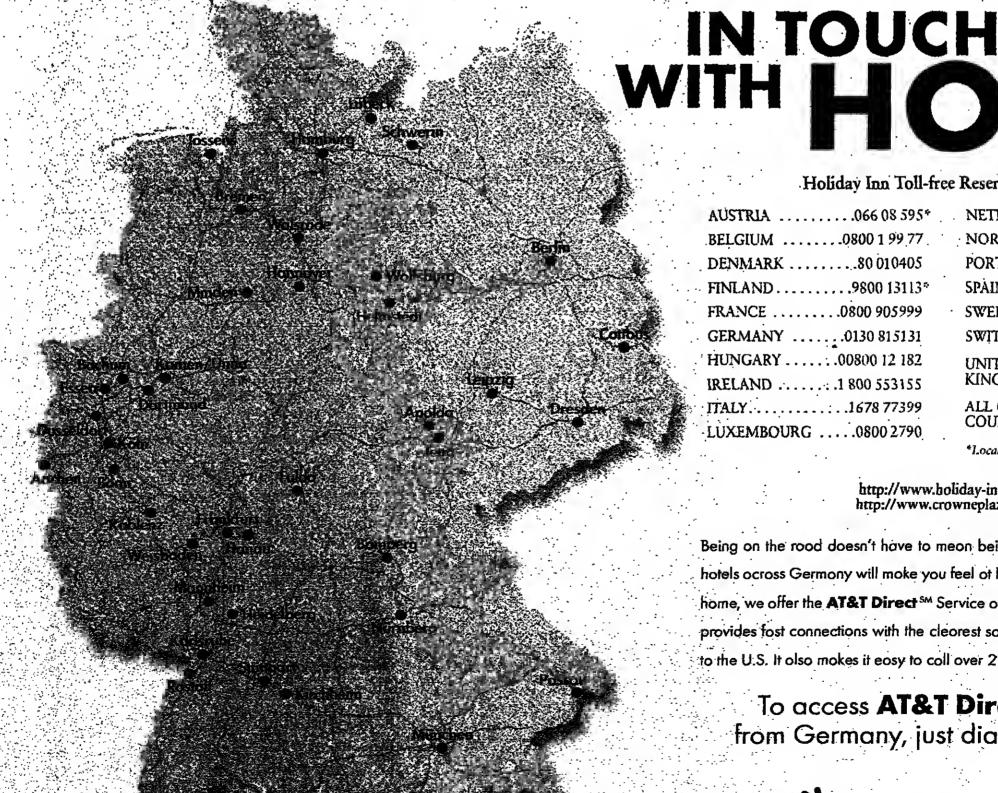
in January 1989. The trial is scheduled to begin on April 14 on charges of contempt over his defiance of subpoenas to appear before the panel. Mr. Botha has pleaded oot guilty.

# Japan Hails Pact Over Cuban Debt

HAVANA - The Japanese ambassador to Cuba said that a debtrepayment agreement with Havana would lay the foundation for increased trade between the two countries.

"The unpaid Cuban debt has been a major obstacle to bilateral trade and to investments by Japanese firms in Cuban tourism and other spheres," Saburo Tanaka. said Sunday.

The accord, signed in Tokyo this month, rescheduled Cuban debts of 5100 billion yen (\$769 million) owed to 182 Japanese private en-



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Holiday Inno









Josie Natori's sparkle sweater and silk-cotton skirt; DKNY's bias-cable-knit sweater and bell-shaped skirt, and Daryl K's fur jerkin over leather shirt.

# Feminine and User-Friendly for Fall

By Suzy Menkes International Herald Tribune

EW YORK — The American shows have opened with a woman's take on fashion --and that means femininity with a feel-good factor.

- Soft but strong is the message spelled out in fall's simple sportswear pieces given an extra dimension with fluffy or felted surfaces. The basic components are an unlined coat or jacket in double-face wool, an easy sweater, a pair of slouchy pants and a long — or one that lands just over the knee. Within that combination are complex cuts, fabric mixes and fancy knitted stitches to make the ordinary seem interesting.

It all adds up to user-friendly dressing for next fall — and that is what Donna Karan got back to in her DKNY line. which in recent seasons had tried hard to be hip, but has now recovered a wo-

"li's a state of grace," said Karan of the collection of long dresses and skirts du to a cylindrical shape, shown simply with loose hair and flannel slippers or neakers. The graphic shades of gray, with hlack and cream and the occasional stroke of bright color, added to the sense of harmony.

The show was about feeling, as tops came in fleece, fluffy mohair and heathery hand-knits and the skirts were felted to make them thick but light.

Karan praised her long-serving assistant, Jane Chung, as designer of DKNY. She might also have given a nod

### **NEW YORK FASHION**

to Yohji Yamamoto and other avantgarde creators who initiated the hiascutting and seaming that make clothes into soft sculptures and give a new geometry to post-feminist skirts and dresses

But Karan made the collection her own with its injection of American ease and fresh-as-paint color, like a fuchsiapink sweater, a scarlet dress or bluegreen and lavender velvet for evening. Although the cutting occasionally seemed tricksy, especially for the shorter bell-shaped skirts, this was fashion with comfort on the agenda.

Last week, Karan announced a strategic move to galvanize her company after disappointing financial results. She has entered into an alliance with Onward Kashiyama Co., which will replace the Donna Karan affiliate that formerly operated in Japan. Twelve new boutiques, including nine for DKNY, are planned under Onward Kashiyama's exclusive manufacturing and licensing deal.

The Irish-born designer Daryl K did a funkier and more inventive version of the touchy-feely look in her show Sunday. The guttering candelabra at the end of the runway and the oddball, flea-market chairs scattered in the front row hinted at the Gothic mood pervading her show. That meant not just Cher-style hair and Crusader thigh-high boots, but the subtle use of medieval themes, especially fancy sleeves: dress arms given a bell curve, colored satin ribbons under the shoulder

seams, or ribbon ties at the elbow. These special effects overlaid a owerful collection of sexy separates. with pants either page-boy short or very long, hut always cut taut and low at the hips. They might have an inserted hand of color, a zipper or a drawstring waist, while skirts were Cossack-style or hug-me-tight in stretch materials. Occasionally, the effects were weird; most worked well. And in a bland New York fashion scene, Daryl Kerrigan's inventiveness

and imagination are refreshing. Josie Natori celebrates 21 years in fashion with a coming-of-age of her collection. After starting as a lingerie and at-home-wear designer, Natori is showing a complete line for the first time, from double-face coats, jersey dresses and mandarin-collar tops through evening jackets made of an-tique ohis. They, like pagoda sleeves, kimono coats and rice-paper embroidered patterns, trace the designer's Asian roots in her native Philippines and give her conventional pieces a twist.

'There is an East-West feeling - but not in an ethnic way, just shapes of jackets based on the kimono in the very finest Italian fabrics," said Natori, who encourages potential clients to stroke the luxurious jersey, wool crepes and liquid silk-and-cotton fabrics and to examine the beading scattered like pearls of caviar. Although not inventing anything new. Natori is offering women sophisticated clothes in modern materials.

"I'm ready for this after 20 years in fashion," she said. "And who understands a woman's life better than a

IGNIFICANTLY, the New York calendar, which runs through the week, has a far higher proportion of women designers than the European collections. The shows are now back in central Manhattan at Bryant Park, with sponsorship from General Motors, and were opened with a fanfare by Mayor Rudolph Gi-uliani. The otle of Monday morning's first show could be a pointer to the American season: "Girls Rule."

# Zen and the Art Of Hotel Serenity Loft Life at SoHo's Mercer

By Suzy Menkes

FEW YORK - With the opening of The Mercer in downtown Manhartan, the SoHo loft has reached its Zen. The chic serenity of the new small-scale hotel is drawing a stylish crowd even before the room service is running and with the eat-in-thekitchen restaurant still under construction

The 75-room hotel — a longawaited project from Andre Balazs (owner of Chateau Marmont, the stars' Hollywood hangout) — gets its bap-tism by fashion on Tuesday, as Vogue and The New Yorker hold a joint book party for the fashion illustrator and commentator Michael Roberts.

But to appreciate the new hotel's subtle and sumptuous take on loft life, you have to see the generous bathrooms opening their folding doors into the airy living space and the beds with their beige-toned linens blending with the wood-block floors.

This mellifluous minimalism has been created by Christian Liaigre, a Paris-based furniture and interior designer, whose noble, sculptured African-inspired stools and tables in wenge and iroko woods furnish the hotel. The result is a marriage of Franco-American style that seems both international and homey. Think of a bedroom where there are three telephones (including a portable), a CD player and a lounge lizard's lilac banquette - but also a foyer where guests are welcomed with array books (the paintings of Alex Katz, the life of Paul McCartney and the art of Africa).

There hasn't been a small hotel built in New York since the Stanbope and the Carlyle in the 1920s," said Balazs, who took over in 1989 the six-story brick building that was built a century earlier as offices for John Jacob Astor IL

Balazs, in his crisp white shirt and beige chinos, color-coordinated to the tobacco-leather room divider and the rough-weave duvet, seems like a fashion creature. Indeed, he is married to Katie Ford, the president of Ford Models.

But The Mercer has been an exacting and demanding development, eight years in the making, as Balazs juggled the investment finance and struggled to create the SoHo spirit of the hotel from scratch while satisfying the historic landmark standards. That

meant redefining the back walls and restoring the metal grid that filters light into the basement restaurant. The result might best be described

as a hotel for people who don't like hotels. Or, rather, for people whose professions oblige them to be constantly on the move, but who yearn to find a stylish place with no corporate conferences, tourist groups or soulless high-tech gadgets.

'There are different kinds of hotels," Balazs said tactfully. "Some

provide spectacle, some the amusement that Disneyland offers. Some hotels offer comfort, a warm embrace and make you feel that you have finally arrived at home." But was home ever as perfect as

this paradise of post-minimalism with its touches of mauve, yellow and aqua among the pallid neutrals? "It is sensual simplicity as opposed to stark minimalism," said Balazs of

Liaigre's design. Why is the opening of a small downtown New York hotel signif-icant? In the world of interiors, it will

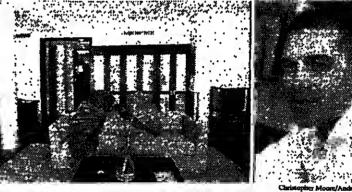
mark the moment when America gave its seal of approval to Liaigre.
It is also a seminal moment in the botel world, as a new generation demands a different kind of experience

from the bellhop, flunky and maître d'. Those snobby scenes in "Titanic" highlight the fact that for modernminded consumers, class-ridden service has become a period piece. "Very few people who travel today have grown up with servants - most people aren't used to a white-gloved

doorman," explained Balazs. "I believe in traditional service - I don't hire staff through a casting agency. But service should be understated, not thrust npon yon."

O some, the laid-back, de-signer-clad style police at the door are just as intimidating as the old-fashioned flunkies. But Balazs has proved at Chateau Marmont that from art directors through rock stars, the new fashionables like informal luxury. The Mercer's rooms, priced from \$295 for a basic room to \$1,500 for a suite, are designed to appeal to a similar in-

How's the fledgling hotel doing? Well, you can't yet get a cup of coffee, or an alcoholic beverage. But Leonardo DiCaprio calls it his New York home away from home. And where he lays his pretty head, fashionable folk will surely follow.



Andre Balazs, owner of the new Mercer hotel in New York City.

**CHESS** 

# **BOOKS**

### THE CHILDREN

By David Halberstam, 783 pages.

\$29.95, Random House. Reviewed by Melissa Fay Greene

I'T is a great season for readers of serious nonfiction. Two long-awaited, higger-than-life multitudinous works of civil rights history, starring famous Americans and casts of hundreds are here: Taylor Branch's incomparable 'Pillar of Fire" and now David Halberstam's uneven but stirring "The Children." Haiberstam's 783-page tome tells a more narrowly focused story than Branch's 746-page one, for while Branch has within his sights the entire era, with an encyclopedic grasp of politics, locales and personalides, Halberstam is intersted chiefly in the hearts and minds of the movement's student leaders.

On May 20, 1961, 20 black and white college students ahoard a Greyhound bus, self-styled "Freedom Riders," carried their campaign to desegregate interstate bus terminals into an ominously quiet Montgomery, Alabama. "It was late Saturday morning," Halberstam writes, "virtually the middle of the day. a time when any Southern city was crowded. Yet not a soul was moving. No one was walking on the streets, nor were any cars about. The hus made a hig, lazy

# **ESCADA** in Paris

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swing into the station. There was no one there. It was like pulling into a ghost busstation in a ghost town. As they prepared to get off the bus, Bernard Lafayette knew something was wrong."

A few of the passengers already had been attacked by a mob at the Birmingham statioo on May 14 -- Police Chief Bull Connor later would explain that the absence of police was due to their celebrating Mother's Day. Outside Anniston, Alabama, that same day, another bus was forced off the road and set aflame, with the young Freedom Riders barricaded inside: "Well, boys, here they are. I brought you some niggers and nigger-lovers," the bus driver had called out to the mob; as the students began choking inside the bus, they heard rioters yelling, "Let's roast the niggers!"
One plainclothes police official had

forced the violent crowd to stand back. By the time the replacement bus drew into eerie Montgomery, the students, not fooled by the city's silence, once again prepared themselves for the possibility that they were about to die at the hands of a mob.

Halberstam delivers these oft-told chronicles and famously photographed scenes with freshness and immediacy, through the eyes of the dozen young people who formed the nucleus of leadership in the nascent civil rights movement, the religious, passionately driven, unpredictable, inventive, Nashvillebased founders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who led sit-ins, Freedom Rides, and voter registration drives, putting their bodies at risk, their college educations on hold and their parents in a panic.

Now-famous activists like Julian Bond, John Lewis, Robert Moses and Marion Barry, and less well-known leaders like the Reverend James Lawson, Diane Nash, James Bevel, James Farmer, Robert Zellner, Curtis Murphy, Gloria Johnson, Bernard La-Fayette, Hank Thomas, Rodney Powell, and Jim Zwerg have seen their versions of events included in comprehensive histories of the era, or have published their own memoirs, but the group's collected tales have not been assembled quite like this before.

Halberstam offers biographies on most of the major protagonists, so that the reader is aware of the inner ground covered by each of "the children" who abandoned their lecture halls, dormitories and campus fragemities and signed up for suicide missions into the Deep South; one stands nervously with them in the aisle of the bus as they contemplate what invisibly awaits them at the Montgomery station.

The reader has been well-informed of the poor or working-class parents back borne on the farm, who desperately scrabbled together the means to finance these sons' and daughters' college educations, and who now must cope with the reality that these brilliant children, these star students, these scholarship winners, have bent their talents to nothing less than overturning the old order, the Southern Way of Life.

During the Freedom Rides, Halberstam makes clear, power begins to shift from the older generations to the young: Not only must the generation of black parents symbolically stand aside as their young people take up the struggle, but also the tyranny of the older generation of whites begins to slip. The students magically attract the brand-new medium of nightly television news; they comprehend the notion of a "sound decades before the term is coined, and, with news crews following them everywhere and relaying images of the brutal attacks on them, they win the attention and sympathy of the majority of television-viewing Americans and

finally, of the Kennedy White House. To accomplish all this, however, they must become fodder - not for cannons but for carneras — by luring the hidden beast of racism out of hiding.

"The silence which greeted them in Montgomery was the exact same silence which had greeted the first riders when they had reached Anniston, the terribly unnatural quict just before the storm. Lewis got off the bus [and] had just begun to answer questions from the various reporters when he saw the mob. coming, it seemed, out of nowhere, moving at them quickly and angrily. They went for the journalists first, particularly the photographers. Lewis was startled by the violence of it. These were men and women who had turned into animals,"

While Branch's book unfolds as a stunningly detailed chronology, Halberstam's book builds upon feelings - a more nebulous realm for a journalist, even for such a justly celebrated journalist as this one, and a slightly more confusing approach for a reader.
Inside the buses, for example, although

the scenes are emotionally vivid and almost unbearably powerful, simple details are lacking, such as how many people are on each bus and who they are. Also odd, for a book so devoted to the protagonists' emotions and impres-

sions, is the fact that practically the only voice in the book is Halberstam's. 'The Children' is like a magnificent work of oral history, with the peculiar drawback that every idiosyncrasy of voice, accent and intonation has been blended into the narrator's one long.

uninflected, almost uninterrupted monologue. Perhaps for this reason, the book feels long. It feels as if it needed editing not hy someone in awe of Halberstam but by someone equal to his gifts and intolerant of his garrulousness. Nevertheless, within this book live stories of timeless heroism, poignancy

and power, so that one's reaction, finally, is that here is an embarrassment of riches. Included here are stories so fraught with hatred and hope, violence and suffering, fear and courage, that one reads the hook gripping it with both hands, almost afraid to turn the page.

Melissa Fay Greene, author of "Praying for Sheetrock" and "The Temple Bombing," both National Book Award Nonfiction Finalists, wrote this for The Washington Post.

By Robert Byrne

RANDMASTER Joel Benjamin of Manhattan, who tied for first in the Bermuda Open Tournament, picked as his best game an ultra-positional duel with Dmitri Gurevich of Chicago.

What began as a Sicilian Defense transposed into a French after 4...d5. Black's 7...Nf5 virtually forced White to give up the Bishop pair with 8 Bf5 ef in return for which the black formation was weakened by the doubled

It was vital for Benjamin to prevent the mobilization of the black kingside pawns - ...g5, ...f4 and so on - by 11 Benjamin's 12 Kf1 was not as un-

usual as it appeared; the king could not be safe in the center forever and it would not be safe on either wing. Thus, a halfway house.

But Gurevich's 12...Kd7 was not good; 12...Qb6 followed by 13...Q-O-O and tucking his king into the corner was perhaps the thing to try.

There was no rush about 17...b6, if it needed to be played at all. It was, however, difficult for Gurevich to form



BENJAMINWHITE Position after 31 ... Rc8

	FRENCH	DEFENSE	
White Beaj'min	Black Gur'vich	White Benj'min	Black Gur'yk
1 e4	C5	22 Rh3	Bg5
2 N/3	Nc6	23 Bd2	Rhh8
3 c3	e6	24 Qe2	Qb7
4 44	d5	25 Rg3	Bf4
4 d4 S e5	Nge7	25 Rg3 26 Bf4	Rhg8
6 Bd3	cd ·	27 RcI	Ke7
7 cd	Nf5	28 Rc8	Ocs
8 B(5	ef	29 Ob5	Oce Kd7 Rc8
9 Nc3	Be6	30 Ob4	Kd7
10 Ne2	Be7	31 Bb6	Rcs
11 64	h6	32 Rg7	Kc7
12 KY1	Kd7	29 Qb5 30 Qb4 31 Bh6 32 Rg7 33 Bd2	Kb7
13 Kg1	Qb6	34 h6 ·-	Rh8
14 Rb1	Qa6	35 h7	Qe8
15 a3	Na5	36 Nf3	NCS
16 b3	Racs	37 Qd6 38 b4	Qc8
17 Nf4	pe .	38 b4	14
18 Rh3	Rh7	39 Bf4	Ka6
19 Rg3	Qb5	40 Rg8	Rg8
20 h5	Qcs	41 hg8/Q	Qg8
21 Net		42 Qc6	Resign
71 MEI	Bh4	QC0	VESIE

a plan. Nevertheless, he might have tried to put pressure on the c file with 17...Rc7 18 Rh3 Rhc8.

After 20 h5, it would have been a blunder to play 20... Nb3? because 2E Bd2 would win the pinned knight. On 20...Qc6, the threat of 21...Qc4

was very strong because if Black could get the queens off, he would have a very good game. But 21 Net killed the chance, Benjamin's 25 Rg3 threatened to win a pawn with 25 Ne6, forcing Gurevich to break up his hishop pair with 25...Bf4

The exchange of rooks with 28 Rc8! Oc8 meant that the black rook at g8 could be defended only by the queen. That let the white queen infiltrate after 29 Qb5 Qc6 30 Qb4 Kd7; with 31 Bh6.

Benjamin had won a decisive pawn. After 32 Rg7, Benjamin not only had a second pawn, hut also his passed by pawn was a terrible weapon. Gurevich pawn was a terrible weapon. Ginevious 2010 could not have fought this off by 10107 31...Rh8 because of 32 Bg7 Rh5 33 Rc3 14075 Cb7 34 Qd6 Ke8 35 Bf6 Qd7 36 Rc8! 140 Rates

At the end, Gurevich's play was desp perate, but he could not do anything useful. After 42 Qc6, he was a piece down and gave up.



The Shock

MFs 1.000 Economist By Paul Blustein

TASHINGTON — Protecting global

keenamy is these days for the me smonel sucherty's shock troops 21000 economists from see County m at the International Marchary al's headquarters in Washington of we exercise extraordinary influence. athe affairs of countries thousands

::::ic> 23 24 The institution they serve is a source the then whether to the public and even se sticulis of countries to a heart is inmantable The IMF's basic function' smile enough: It dispenses beans as " metally strapped governments that the the its prescriptions for communicate sucturing But many of the Fund's miles remain shrouded in secrety. sieven when it releases statements or

Thinking Ahead / Euro Brings

By Reginald Dale 16

OAIN, FRANCE -- Assury more metorably loward merthe euro, 11 West European contribute are engaging in one of the most carraordinary surrenders of national surrenders reigning ever voluntarily undersafes.

by proud independent - lates. What's more, they are doing to at a time when many people around the world are more anyones to produce their saveterignty from what they see these saveterignty from what they see the saveterignty from what they saveteright the saveteright that the saveteright the savetering the s mean from economic globalization than to cade it to international con-

Those concerns exist in Europe, was One big argument of the euro's ponents is that it means transform a strain of the little meresi and exchange rates, to unclusted bureaucrais in Frankfurt and British

So far, however, the contrary gument has prevailed. It is that com-nes will gain greater benefits that will lose, and ultimately more positive defend their interests, by pooling reigniv m a bigger group of nunded nations.

That belief, rooted in century bloody intra-European confirmation with the most to should be the state of the than other nations. But England emmas over sovereignty are selective echoed throughout a sovereignty are selective echoed throughout a selective echoed throughout echoed e doving increasingly to a box

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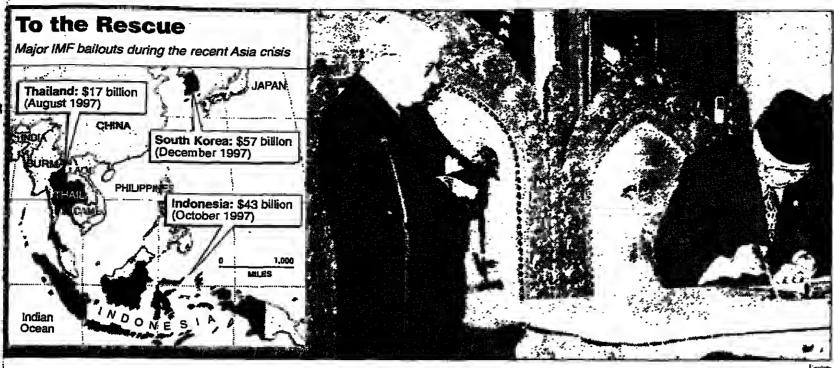
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Herald Eribune

# BUSINESS/FINANCE

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1998



Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, looking on when President Subarto of Indonesia signed an accord at a ceremony in January.

# The Shock Troops of the International Economy

# IMF's 1,000 Economists Labor to Rescue Countries in Financial Distress, Often Without Kudos

By Paul Blustein Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - Protecting global economic order can be a chaotic busi-

It certainly is these days for the international economy's shock troops the 1,000 economists from six continents at the International Monetary Fund's headquarters in Washington who exercise extraordinary influence over the affairs of countries thousands of miles away.

The institution they serve is a source of great mystery to the public and even to officials of countries to whom it is accountable. The IMF's basic function is simple enough: It dispenses loans to financially strapped governments that follow its prescriptions for economic restructuring. But many of the Fund's activities remain shrouded in secrecy, and even when it releases statements or

documents to the public, it still tends to bide behind a smoke screen of technical

But that is changing. Rarely, if ever, in its 53-year-history has the IMF been forced to scramble so furiously as during its efforts to keep Asia's once-thriving economies from collapsing. Nasty developments have repealedly taken IMF officials by surprise. Although the Fund can claim success in having stemmed the financial turmoil in South Korea and Thailand, a deep crisis persists in Indonesia, the third big bailout

The mess in Indonesia is one factor fueling a mounting clamor of criticism against the IMF, which comes as Congress weighs a Clinton administration request for \$18 billion to help replenish the fund's coffers.

A look at the inner workings of this powerful institution shows how its key officials have been struggling at crucial points in the Asian crisis to contain the instability menacing the world econ-

John Boorman, director of the IMF's policy development and review department, recalls how the Fund was "get-ting facts on the run" as the bailout for South Korea was being negotiated in early December. "Decisions were being made on the basis of the facts on hand at the moment, rather than with the fullest information that one would like to have in those kind of circumstances," Mr. Boorman said. "The strain was enormous.

The IMF is sometimes accused of running roughshod over a number of problems in its zeal to prevent Asian economies from going bust. It is sowing the seeds of future crises, critics fret, because big banks will conclude they can throw money recklessly around the world without fear of losing it in a default. Another common complaint is

that the Fund has imposed excessively austere policies on the already hardpressed Asians.

But the IMF and its defenders counter that the Fund's efforts have significantly reduced the ill effects of the crisis. Simply allowing an Asian "tiger" to collapse would pose unacceptable risks to the rest of the world, they argue, especially considering bow rapidly financial contagion spreads.

What is more, the IMF has had to contend with the reality that countries tend to reject its help until time has nearly run out.

"IMF programs are like medicine." said Michael Mussa, the IMF's chief economist. "Some of the medicine has harmful side effects, and there are real questions about what the dosage ought to be. The best that can be boped for is that we're prescribing more or less the right medicine in more or less the right

Remedies for sick economies are concocied in a beige limestone building

See IMF, Page 15

# **Norway Pledges to Cut** Oil Production by 3%

VIENNA — Norway pledged Mon-day to slash 3 percent of its daily oil production, just before OPEC members were set to start an emergency meeting to ratify production cuts of their own to susb oil prices bigher.

The move by Norway would remove soughly 100,000 barrels from the glutted global petroleum market.

Norway, a non-OPEC member that is the world's second-largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia, said its cuts would take effect April 12 and last through the end of the year. But Norway, in a statement issued from Oslo, reserved the right to cancel its plans if OPEC fails to

Ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries insisted Monday that they would deliver their promised production cuts despite skepocism in the market.

follow through on its own planned cut-

As Norway came on board, pledges of production cuts by OPEC and non-OPEC members totaled around 1.5 million barrels a day. Independent analysis say the oil exporters need to remove more than 2 million barrels a day from the market to see a lasting

price increase. Pledges of cuts in production pushed prices about \$2 per barrel higher on London and New York futures markets

Prices turned around Monday in London and New York, with Brent crude oil to be delivered in May down 63 cents at \$14.77 per barrel on the Internacional Petroleum Exchange and down 58 cents at \$16.18 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange at 3 P.M.

Some of the OPEC ministers said before their Monday meeting that the group should do even more to try to improve prices.

Others disagree. Qatar's oil minister Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah, said early Monday he was bappy with what has been thus far pledged. Dan Etete, Nigeria's oil minister, has taken the same line, although the new Kuwaiti oil minister, Sheik Saud Nasser al-Sabah, called for greater cuts by both OPEC

and non-OPEC producers.

Several ministers are nevertheless staying vague about how much oil they. actually will pump -- raising more questions about whether the deal can work.

# **Britain and Germany Press** Paris to Privatize Aerospatiale

By Paul Taylor Renters

LONDON - British and German aerospace companies and their governments have given France a virtual deadline to privatize state-owned Aerospatiale or miss out on the introduction of a single European aerospace and defense company, industry sources said Mon-

That message was contained in a confidential report to governments submitted by British Aerospace PLC, Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG, or DASA, of Germany and Aerospatiale last Friday, the sources said.

'If we find the French won't move quickly, then there are other options," a source familiar with the issue said. 'The main other option would be for

ahead without Aerospatiale and tell the French, 'We'll keep a chair at the table for you once you are ready to renounce state control, "he said. While no explicit or formal deadline

British Aerospace and DASA to go

bad been set, the sources said the time-frame for a political decision was by the end of this year, partly because a German general election set for Sept. 27 was likely to inhibit Bonn until Oc-

The three European companies are being spurred by the need to compete with huge mergers in the U.S. defense industry.

West European countries have slashed their military budgets by abont 40 percent since the end of the Cold War, adding to pressure for a restructuring of European defense industries.

# Thinking Ahead /Commentary.

# **Euro Brings Need for Accountability**

By Reginald Dale

move inexorably toward mermarks into a single currency. United States. the euro, 11 West European countries ereignty ever voluntarily undertaken by prond independent states.

What's more, they are doing so at a time when many people around the world are more anxious to preserve their sovereignty from what they see as threats from economic globalizacion than to cede it to international organizations.

Those concerns exist in Europe, too. One big argument of the euro's opponents is that it means transferring national decision-making authority over key economic policies, such as interest and exchange rates, to unelected bureaucrats in Frankfurt and Brus-

So far, however, the contrary argument has prevailed. It is that countries will gain greater benefits than they will lose, and ultimately more power to lefend their interests, by pooling sovereignty in a bigger group of like-ninded nations.

That belief, rooted in centuries of and that it is freer to do so in a global defend their interests, by pooling sovereignty in a bigger group of like-minded nations.

bloody intra-European conflict, has impelled Western Europe further down the road to shared sovereignty than other nations. But Europe's dilemmas over sovereignty are increasingly echoed throughout a world moving increasingly to a borderless

first to currency speculators, then to the and environme mal standards.

International Monetary Fund and the Companies and markets are still reg

protected, self-sufficient economy even though such policies bave failed in the past. Many Americans see the World Trade Organization in Geneva as a sinister threat to U. S. national ward a greater, voluntary pooling of independence.

But there are common themes. Many of those worried by economic

By pooling sovereignty, Europe is for once setting the world a good example.

globalizacion complain that powerful transnacional corporations and financial markets, not national governments, are increasingly dictating eco-

economy. That is generally a good thing. It should act as an incentive to countries to make the best use of economic resources.

But it is not true that national govalways flock to countries where social are meant to serve.

There are many different worries, systems are most primitive. Most in-As Asia's financial crisis unfolded, ternational investment still goes to rich many in the region felt they had been countries with wide variations in tax OAIX. FRANCE - As they forced to yield cootrol over their affairs and spending policies, social structures

ulated. The Asian crisis is actually a In India, opponents of trade liber- reminder of the need for sound fiare engaging in one of the most ex-traordinary surrenders of national sov-country of the tools needed to run a opened, and many of the most enthusiastic advocates of globalization

ward a greater, voluntary pooling of economic sovereignty. The WTO is more powerful than its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and virtually every country in the world is either a member or wants

Regional economic groupings are proliferating — some of them consciously inspired by the European Union — and as trade barriers fall, more and more domestic policies are becoming subject to international agree-

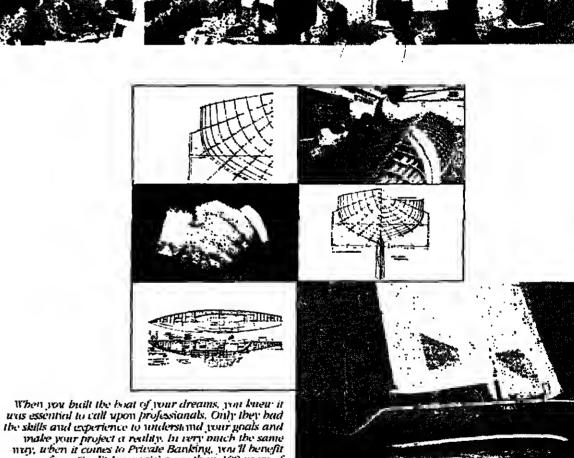
Opponents of the process tend to overlook its advantages. There is ample evidence that economic integration benefits the participants. The old nationalisms that are being replaced in Europe were destructive, as was the self-interested, beggar-thyneighbor world of the 1930s.

By pooling sovereignty, Europe is for once sening the world a good ex-ample. Now it should give greater thought to making the institutions to emments no longer have economic and which sovereignty is being transferred social policy choices or that investors more accountable to the people they

March 30

### Private Banking Internationa

# HOW TO BUILD



### **CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES**

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### Very briefly:

Sony Corp. plans to combine its Columbia Pictures and TriStar Pictures movie studios into one unit; Sony will distribute films under the Columbia banner, while the TriStar trademark and name will continue to exist.

• The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission issued a special warning for investors to be on the lookout for fraudulent trading schemes involving foreign currencies.

• Walgreen Co., the largest U.S. drug-store chain, said its earnings for the quarter ended Feb. 28 jumped 16 percent to \$171 million, compared with the like period a year earlier.

Koo Koo Roo Inc., the Los Angeles-based restaurant operator, named Lee Iacocca, the former chairman of Chrysler Corp., as its acting chairman.

Texaco Inc. said it would huy back up to \$1 billion of its commoo stock in the company's second share repurchase program in two years.

 Coca-Cola Co. expects its beverage sales to rise 13 percent to 14 percent in the first quarter, spurred by strong consumption in Latin America and Asia. Bluomberg, AP, Reuters, WP

### **Weekend Box Office**

LOS ANGELES - "Titanic" dominated the U.S. box office over the weekend, with a gross of \$16 million. Following are the Top 10 moneymakers, based on estimates

for Friday through Sunday.

**AMEX** 

Monday's 3:45 P.M.

The 300 most traded stocks of the day.

The Associated Press.

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# Nikkei's Slide Stocks Slip on Outlook for Oil and Profits **Fuels Dollar** Against Yen

NEW YORK - The dollar soared against the yen and was higher against other major currencies Monday, helped by the failure of Japan's government to prop up the country's stock market and hy the prospect of a U.S. interest-rate rise later this year.

At 3 P. M. in New York, the dollar was at 132,065 yen, up from 128.275 yen at the close on Friday. It rose to 1.8482 Deutsche marks from 1.8191 DML

The dollar also fetched 1.5235 Swiss francs, compared with 1.4861 francs, and 6.1912-French francs, compared with 6.0974 francs. The

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

pound fell to \$1.6780, from \$1.6870.

The dollar rose to a two-and-ahalf-month high against the yen amid signs that Japan's plans to use public funds to prop up the stock market will not be sufficient to avert

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index fell 2.84 percent to a five-week low of 16,263.04, as investors sold Japanese stocks and used the proceeds to invest outside of Japan, which has suffered an eight-year

"I'd be a buyer of dollars," said Sieve Barrow, a currency strategisi at Bear Steams International, who expects the dollar to climb to 145 yen this year. "Until the Japanese economy shows some signs of stahilizing, the market can't be sure the government has done enough to solve its problems.

The dollar trend looks higher, especially if the Fed tightens, not tomorrow but in the next few months," said Chris Iggo, an economist at Barclays Capital.

He also said traders were pessimistic about the Bank of Japan's quarterly economic report due oo Thursday

expected noticeably more employmeot io Western Germany by the end of the year but that Europe's currency union was not likely to create new German jobs in the short

At the same time, investors were delighted with the pound's prospects. Britain does oot plan to be among the first wave joining mooetary union next year and might still raise interest rates. (Reuters, AFP) commitment that Boeing will re-

lower for a fourth day Monday, led by oil and financial issues, as investors sold shares of companies that may report weak earnings. At 3 P.M. the Dow Jones in-

dustrial average was down 35.58 points at 8,795.08. Declining stocks outnumbered those that advanced by a 17-to-11 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange in midafternooo volume of 336 million shares.

The Standard & Poor's 500-stock oervous. index was dowo 3.54 points at 1,091.90, and the Nasdaq composite

outer Corp. is preparing to grab a

large slice of the personal-com-

puter business in China and move

market is ready, executives said

'Initially, we are shipping desktops, ootebooks and servers,' he said. 'Over the next year, it will

Known for selling directly to customers, Dell has been market-

ing in China through a network of

After many months of negoti-

ation with Chinese authorities, it is

opening a manufacturing and cus-

be a full range of products."

distributors.

NEW YORK - Stocks were flow in here, but it's not really a strong market," said Peter Cooke, a bid to bring oil prices up. Hallihurmoney manager at Glenmede Trust ton led the decline, falling along Co., which oversees about \$13 hil- with Exxoo and Cooper Cameron, a lion. With two days left in the

### U.S. STOCKS

quarter, concern about corporate profit is prompting stock sales, he said. "You might see some adverse surprises, and that's making people

Oil drillers and service companies declined along with crude oil index was down 6.34 points at prices as investors apparently were skeptical that the OPEC members.

Dell Sets Sights on China's PC Market

our investment in China is to set

the platform, the foundation and

customers for the decades ahead."

said Phil Kelly, president of Dell's

when China would be ready for the

direct sales approach but conceded

that Dell's activities in Chioa were

an indication it could happen sooo-

Mr. Topfer said Dell was likely

while. Dell uses the direct method

in 11 Asian countries and sells

through distributors in another 39.

to work through distributors for a oomic problems.

er rather than later.

tomer center on a 50,000 square- where it is ranked ninth after three year, Mr. Kelly said.

SINGAPORE — Dell Com- Xiamen in Fujian province.

into direct selling there when the infrastructure to support our

"We are huilding a team, and we should be shipping products there later this year," said Morton Topfer, vice chairman of Dell.

"He will bring the direct model to China."

Mr. Kelly declined to predict when China would be ready for the

well equipment company.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 9/32 to 102 1/32, raising its yield 2 basis points to 5.98 percent.

Some financial shares slipped with bonds, after a report showing record home sales last month indicated that inflation may quicken. As bonds fall, their yields climb, and higher interest rates are bad for banks, which borrow money to conduct business.

move quickly op from its current

PC market outside Japan, is dom-

inated by desktop sales to the gov-

ufacturing for Asian markets at its

China site and at a Malaysian plant

In its fourth quarter, which ended on Feb. 1, much of Dell's

growth in Asia was driven by

China. Asian sales surged 79 per-

cent to \$240 millioo on a year-to-

year basis despite regional eco-

look in particular for Malaysia and

Thailand, where it posted growth

Dell maintained a strong out-

in Penang, Mr. Topfer said.

Dell plans to concentrate man-

ernment sector and corporations.

China, the second-largest Asian

12, Mr. Topfer said.

Brokerage stocks fell

"There's money that continues to meeting in Vienna, would stick to Charles Schwab said it expected their pledges to cut production in a commission revenue, its most important source of income, to be built by price cuts as customers trade more by computer. The largest U.S. discount broker said in a regulatory filing that it was combining its regular and electronic trading operations and cutting the price of computer-based trades for mos customers. Merrill Lynch and Trav elers Group, which owns Salomes Smith Barney Holdings, also fell.

Telephone companies rose after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to block nationwide deregulation of pay-phone charges. Regional teles phone companies raised rates after the new rules took effect in October, and pay-phone rates climbed to about 35 cents in most parts of the country from as low as 10 cents in some places. BellSouth and Bell Arlantic were among the gainers.

Among active issues, Odetics shares rose after a jury awarded the company \$70.4 million in its patent lawsuit against Storage Technology Corp. Centocor rose after studies showed its clot-preventing drug. ReoPro, can significantly benefit

heart patients. Pfizer rose for a second day. The drugmaker won U.S. clearance Fri-day to sell Viagra, the first pill ap-

proved to treat impotence. (Bloomberg, AP)

### To Our Readers

Because of the seven-hour time difference between New-York and Paris through April 5, the U.S. stock tables, the U.S. futures and some other items in this edition reflect early prices. This change is necessary to meet distribution require-

Australi Airlines plants and the gravest airline TAP. The white and the French oM to thee European all merships being formed by mer theaten to leave Swin

# Diageo Sheds 1

holes it was selling its Dewis out whicky and Bombay got and to rival Bacardi Corp. does all of bellion to comply with regre any deriands to preserve comguen in the liquor industry. 18 and European regulation area Diageo to sell the brands of outstion for clearing the menter.
Gunness PLC and Grand Man woman PLC. The merger created

Dager said after deducting costs at in, the sales of Dewar's and

### Boeing and CSA Get Stake in Czech Jetmaker The Czech government is selling will hold a 90 percent stake in a

Based on its progress in Asia. of 100 perceot during the financial

foot (4,500 square-meter) site in years of business, Dell expected to

"One of the major reasons for ranking in China as number 11 or

PRAGUE --- The Czech govern-Markets paid little attention to a prediction made by Chancellor the sale of its 34 percent stake in the aircraft maker Aero Vodochody to a group headed by Boeing Co. and the Czech airline CSA to rescue the Czech company from bankruptcy.

The Czech government spokesman, Vladimir Mlynar, said the price would be 950 million koruny (\$28.1 million) in cash. He said the government would also provide 38 billion koruny in credit guarantees over the next 10 years.

"The deal is conditioned by a

main a strategic partner until at least 2008," Mr. Mlynar said.

Mr. Mlynar added that Aero Vodochody's debts would be restructured and turned into foreign tack and military-trainer airplanes currency credits from foreign banks. as well as aircraft components. He did not provide details.

The deal to rescue the aircraft manufacturer had been in the works since last May, when the Czech Republic chose a consortium of Boeing, McDonnell Douglas Corp. and state-owned CSA to take a stake of up to 40 percent in Aero Vodochody. Since then, McDonnell Douglas has

beeo acquired by Boeing. Under the arrangement, Boeing Mlynar said.

limited-liability company that will invest in the state-controlled Aero Vodochody, which makes light-at-Other terms of the deal were not

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

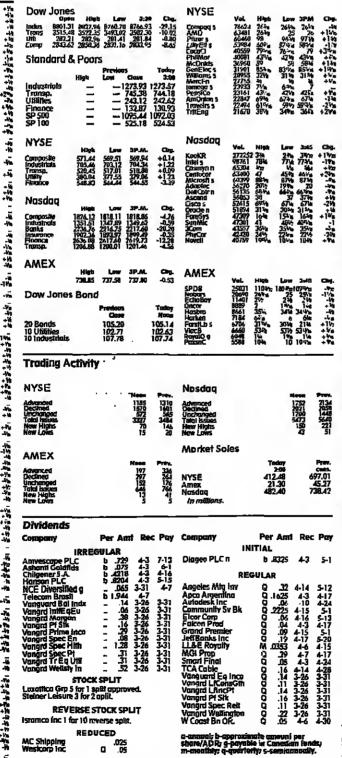
disclosed. Aero Vodocbody needed the guarantees to finance the manufacture of 72 fighter jets for the Czecb military. Negotiations oo the sale of the stake to Boeing and CSA had been delayed as the two sides debated the conditions for the govguarantees,

the stake to protect the debt- riddeo company, which is the Czech military's only domestic supplier of military aircraft, and to belp it expand as the country prepares to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and upgrade its equipment. Czech Minister of Industry and

Trade Karel Kuhnl said the sale of the planemaker increased the likelihood that the Czech Republic would be "significantly more successful" in aircraft sales.

Boeing shares' were trading late Monday at \$50.75, down 50 cents, in New York (Reuters, Bloomberg)

# U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY



March 30, 1998 High Low Lotes Chee Opini Grains

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Sep 98 94.23 94.22 94.22 1
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JAPANESE YEN (CASED)
12.5 million von. 5 per 100 yen
Jun 98 . 7775 . J642 . J652
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Frits open int 81,651, up 3,948

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HINDON - Diageo PLC med

z newly named Drageo, which is a seventh biggest food and drinks. espany in the world.

lembry would give it a net gain of a del del million (\$774 million). The

**WORLD STOCK MARKE** 

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# **EUROPE**

France Tailors Bonds for Benchmark Status

By Carl Gewirtz international Herald Tribune

PARIS -- In a bid to lay claim to benchmark status for its government bond market. France's Finance Ministry on Monday announced plans to roll eight small issues into four large ones.

The move is aimed at making its market more competitive in the huge pan-European bond market that will emerge when I 1 EU countries create a common currency, the

euro, at the start of next year. Swapping smaller franc-denom-inated issues into jumbo euro-denominated ones will offer instirutional investors an assurance of always being able to trade large volumes with minimum effect on

The new debt will give Matif. About 6 percent of the total the Paris financial futures ex-

Increased activity for Matif enhances Paris's claim to being an important financial center. Although London is widely expected to retain its position as the hnb of Europe's financial activity, Frankfurt --- home to the European central bank - and Paris continue to vie for supremacy on the Continent. Matif has been losing volume to its competitor in Frankfurt.

"It's quite a nice idea. It re-shuffles the debt and gives a boost to market activity," Philippe Brossard, head of research at ABN-Amro Finance in Paris, told Rcuters. "You can argue that this marginally helps France get a nice position for the euro benchmark.

change, an instrument that can lay ernment debt is now denominated claim to the title of euro-bench- in European currency units, which mark. A benchmark is the lowest will be converted to euros in Janu- ters.

possible interest rate, which other ary, At the conversion at the start of

Of the 32 hillion of existing debt that is denominated in Ecus, the government is offering to exchange 17 billion Ecus (\$18.5 billion) of debt in eight different maturities into the four jambo maturities.

The four new issues will mature in 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2008. The issues that can be exchanged for the new paper mature between 2000 and 2010.

The recent strong bond rally has lifted prices of the coupons on both sides of the swap above current market levels, so investors will receive cash for their holdings and the cash will be used to purchase

the new investments. The aim is to offer the highest liquidity without upsetting the holders of the paper by offering securities with similar maturities, Finance Ministry sources told Reu-

EU issuers can base the price of their debt on ary, At the conversion at the swap, 300 multion Ecus of new debt will be Treasury officials estimated that created because the premium at which some of the old paper is trading is quite substantial. Despite the increase in overall debt. Treasury officials insisted that through

lengthening the maturity profile and reducing interest paid, the government would save money on debt SCTVICE. How much will be saved cannot be known until the operation is completed. Institutional investors

have until April 9 to accept the

offer and private investors until

April 15. The Treasury estimates that the average U.S. Treasury issue amounts to about the equivalent of It billion Ecus and that the average French issue is some 10 hitlion Ecus, This compares to averages of 6 billion Ecus on Italian government debt and 5 billion Ecus on German government debt.

# **LVMH Shares** Hit by Woes At DFS Group

PARIS - Shares in LVMH Moei Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA fell 2.1 percent on Monday after its duty-free unit, DFS Group Ltd., said it was delaying payments for two months to more than 40 suppliers to offset slowing sales in Asia.

The shares closed at 1,288 French francs (S211), down 27 francs, on the Paris Bourse.

LVMH, the world's largest maker of luxury goods, bought 61.25 percent of DFS early last year to bolster the distribution of its products in Asia. That was just before falling currencies and stocks in the region worsened the economic slowdown in Japan, whose tourists account for 65 percent of DFS

DFS sales in the first two months of this year fell 20 percent, compared with a year earlier, LVMH said, causing its own sales to slide 5

percent. "It's one way of dealing with the difficulties in Asia," said Jean Weisse, an analyst at CPR Finance in Paris. "Psychologically, it's yet another sign their problems in the region are far from over."

DFS wrote to its suppliers asking for a 90-day payment period instead of 30 days, an LVMH spokesman said. DFS remained determined to impose the terms despite protests from suppliers, the spokesman

LVMH is planning to cut costs by 1.2 billion francs at DFS over the next 18 months to offset the sluggish sales and a fall in profit. It also plans to diversify its activities to lighten its exposure to struggling Asian

markets.

DFS reported a 67 percent decline in operating profit last year to 578 million francs.

Japanese economic problems have cut deeply into DFS sales, especially in Hong Kong, a favorite destination of Japanese tourists and DFS's major market. The decline in tourism in the region is expected to continuc, LVMH said.

Bernard Arnault, the LVMH chairman, said DFS would undergo a three-year plan that included "sig-

nificant' reductions in spending.
"In the area where DFS operates, we're hoping to reduce costs substantially and are convinced that in three years, the cycle will come back," he said.



### Very briefly:

Zurich

· New Decaux PLC, a unit of the privately owned French advertising company Decaux SA, has offered £475 million (\$799 million) for More Group PLC, of Britain, outbidding Clear Channel Communications Inc.

4,691.33 4,687.27 +0.09

 The European Union and Russia have agreed to remove all quotas on trade in textiles by May 1, concluding three years of talks. Russia will remove the import quotas on EU carpets that it imposed for one year on March 19, while the 15-nation EU said it would not renew unilateral quotas on 33 types of Russian textiles,

• The Midi consortium, with 20-percent backing from Time Warner Inc., has been awarded South Africa's fourth terrestrial television license for eight years by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

 Bezeq Ltd., Israel's state-controlled phone company, said fourth-quarter net income fell 68 percent from a year earlier after a one-time charge relating to a cellular-phone project in India, Bezeg earned 67.4 million shekels (\$18.8 million). Revenue dropped 4 percent to 2.33 hillion shekels.

• Imperial Chemical Industries PLC plans to acquire Acheson Industries Inc. of the United States for \$560 million, continuing the British company's transformation into a specialty chemicals group,

• France has intensified its opposition to proposals for a major new round of trade talks between the European Union and the United States.

· British Airways PLC said its 14,000 flight attendants accepted a two-year pay agreement, ending a dispute with some cabin crew that led to a costly strike last summer,

• The Bank of Greece, as expected, lowered an official lending rate to 19 percent from 23 percent, after the drachma strengthened following the currency's addition into the European exchange-rate mechanism. Bloomberg, Reuters, AP

# Swissair Seeks Stakes in TAP and AOM

Completel by the Staff From Duputcher ZURICH — Swissair, Sabena SA

petition in the liquor industry.

of Guinness PLC and Grand Met-

ropolitan PLC. The merger created

the seventh biggest food and drinks

Diageo said after deducting costs

£460 million (\$774 million). The 695.

and tax, the sales of Dewar's and

company in the world.

Diageo Sheds Liquor Brands

SAir Group, which owns Swissair, and Austrian Airlines plan to add the said Monday it planned to buy a stake Portuguese airline TAP, Turkish of about 20 percent in Portugal's Airlines and the French airline state-owned TAP and that it also AOM to their European alliance, as aimed to buy shares in closely held partnerships being formed by major AOM. SAir owns 49.5 percent of the carriers threaten to leave Swissair in Belgian airline Sabena and has said it

Delta Air Lines Inc. for trans-Atlantic flights, is expanding its net-

Kuala Lumpur

work as other major airlines group together, shunning Swissair. Staterun Alitalia SpA chose KLM Royal Dutch Airlines NV as its international partner instead of Swissair, and Singapore Airlines Ltd. dumped the Swiss carrier for a partnership with Lufthansa AG. 'To be considered a major player

SAir, which has an alliance with

held Italian carrier Air Onc.

in Europe, SAir has to form closer ties with other carriers." said Kevin Fogarty, an analyst at Daiwa Europe in London. "On its own, it won't receive the full benefits of European

Switzcrland is not a member of the European Union, which means Zurich-based Swissair cannot offer as many flights to European cities as its EU-based rivals and is restricted from flying domestic routes within EU member countries.

At a press conference in Zurich,

the SAir chief executive, Philippe Bruggisser, also repeated that the company planned to form "routepartnerships for its Asian (AP, Reuters) flights.

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# At Canary Wharf

HSBC to Build

LONDON - HSBC Holdings PLC said Monday it would build a new 41-story headquar-ters in London's Canary Wharf development at a cost of around £500 million (\$841.5 million).

The company, which moved its base of operations from Hong Kong to London in 1993, said the building would be built under a fixed-price contract and would be completed in late 2001. It will be home to 8,000 staff workers.

HSBC said the new headquarters would house its commercial-banking, treasury, investment-banking and insurance operations and would create "significantly enhanced husiness synergies and operating efficiency.

HSBC plans to buy the building and the naming rights under a 999-year lease from Canary Wharf Ltd. The building will have direct access to the transit system's Jubilee line extension, which is to open in early 1999.

# WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Prices in local currencies. Telekurs

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LONDON - Diageo PLC said John McGrath, Diageo's chief Monday it was selling its Dewar's executive, said, "The sale process has proceeded smoothly, and we Scotch whisky and Bombay gin hrands to rival Bacardi Corp. for have achieved an outcome which is \$1.93 billion to comply with reg- good for both parties." ulators' demands to preserve com-In December, the Federal Trade Commission approved the merger on U.S. and European regulators condition that Diageo sell Dewar's ordered Diageo to sell the brands as Scotch and its two brands of Bornhay a condition for clearing the merger gin, Original and Sapphire, within six

without the sale the merger would the newly named Diageo, which is eliminate substantial competition. The European Commission, the executive agency of the European Union, gave its approval Oct. 15 on similar conditions. Diageo shares Bombay would give it a net gain of fell 16 pence to close in London at specific

months. The commission said that

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

": In U.S. dollers

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IF: Army of Economia

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# Talks With IMF Going Well, Jakarta Says

Compiled by Cur Suff From Pages, his

JAKARTA — Finance Minister Fund Bawazier said Monday that there were positive signs that the country's \$74 billion corporate debi problem could be settled, which would remove a key hurdle to In- policy and structural reform. donesia's bailout negotiations with the International Monetary Fund.

sented," Mr. Fuad said after a meeting with President Suhario. Discussions between Jakarta

and the IMF over the terms of a \$40 billion, loan-guarantee package rate deht was "still an issue," he have stalled over the issue of how expected the talks to finish "very to handle Indonesia's mountain of corporate debt, much of it uncol-

decline of the nation's corrency,

the rupiah, since last summer. The talks have lasted almost two weeks and covered five main areas: corporate deht, bank restructuring, the budget and subsidies, monetary

The IMF's chief negotiator, Hubert Neiss, said general talks on "I see good signs, and it can be nionetary policy would conclude nied," Mr. Fuad said after a Tuesday. "We have further points, hut this is maybe the last major point," he said.

He added that although corposoon" in a "matter of days."

Last week, Mr. Neiss said that lectible because of the 70 percent the IMF saw merit in an Indonesian

proposal to resolve the debt ensis using a model adopted by Mexico in the early 1980s.

Mr. Bawazier said he reported to the president that many foreign investors intended to huy government shares in listed companies on the Jakarta stock exchange. "This is an indication that they believe Indonesia's economy will be restored," he said.

The minister for state firms, Tanri Abeng, was quoted Monday hy the Media Indonesia daily as saying that Indonesia was planning to sell 12 state companies by June to help pay off its public deht as part of an agreement with the (Remers, AFX, AFP)

atmosphere at the bank.

Promotions -- from economist to

senior economist; senior economist

to deputy division chief; and so on

- occur only after a staffer has

spent at least two years at each level.

have been there for 20 years, and it's

The Fund's strong bureaucratic culture helps explain the argument

advanced by some of its more vehe-

ment critics such as Jeffrey Sachs

and Steven Radelet of Harvard Uni-

versity. They see an institution stuck

in a mind-set that it developed dur-

ing the Lattin American debt crisis of

the 1980s, when the chief problems

were runaway budget deficits and

on familiar budget-cutting and other

austerity measures, these crines

complain. And it has not yet honed its

expertise for dealing with problems

that have cropped up in the 1990s,

notably the weaknesses ut many

countries' banking systems and their

vulnerability to sudden withdrawals

criticism. When countries lose the

confidence of markets, they argue.

the only sensible approach is to take

painful steps such as raising interest

But even some IMF supporters

concede that the Fund needs to

move faster at figuring uut how to

cope with new-style investor panics

in countries that differ vastly from

the profligate Latins of the 1980s.

Fund officials reject much of this

of "hot" foreign money.

rates to lure back investors.

The IMF is too prone to fall back

very difficult to join at mid-career,"

Yuu have division chiefs who

### ■ Subarto Family Criticized

A senior Indonesian economic adviser says the Suharto family's financial interests are blocking Inits economic crisis, according to a Sydney newspaper report quoted by The Associated Press.

Indonesia's biggest problem is for the government to come up with consistent policies, and I don't think they can because the influence of the First Family's interests is 100 great, 'Umar Juoro, adviser to the new vice president of In-donesia, B. J. Habibie, was quoted as telling The Australian Financial Review.

# An Upbeat Intel Slates \$1 Billion for

Asian Investments

SEOUL - Intel Corp. plans to invest \$1 billion in plants and equipment in Asia this year because it sees 'major growth'' in the region's personal-computer market, its president, Craig Barrett, said Monday.

Intel, the world's largest maker of computer microprocessor chips, also plans to buy \$1 billion of chips, other products and services from South Korean companies this year, Mr. Barrett said, a move that could

help bold down costs. The investments reflect Intel's belief that Asia will see "major growth in PC usage," Mr. Barren said in Seoul. He declined to comment further on the planned invest-

ments and purchases. By investing in Asia and buying Korean products made cheap by a devaluation of the country's currency, Intel may be able to hold down costs at a time when prices in the microprocessor market it dominates are falling faster than ever. Intel's sales in the Asia-Pacific region totaled about \$5.85 billion in

Mr. Barrett, who in May will succeed Andrew Grove as Intel's chief executive, declined to comment on a report this month that its investments in Asia may include buying a stake in Samsung Electronics Co.,

South Korea's largest chipmaker. Intel already buys computer chips from Samsung and owns 10 percent of the South Korean company's chip

# Seoul to Ease Restrictions on Investments

SEOUL -- South Korea is abolishing restrictions on foreign investment in its securities industry, the Ministry of Finance said Monday. The move could push some domestic brokerages out of business.

Seoul also announced other mar ket-opening measures, including allowing foreigners to invest in the domestic oil business and removing some restrictions on foreign investment in other industries.

The brokerage changes take effect Wednesday, several months earlier than originally planned, the ministry said. The package would be followed by deregolation in foreignexchange transactions in July.

The moves are in line with the government's effort to attract more foreign investment to help recover from the Asian financial crisis.

The changes will enable foreign companies to set up new branches in South Korea with no restrictions or equity ownership, compared with the current 50 percent limit in joint venture brokerages.

The ministry scrapped an "economic needs test" that has required foreign financial institutions to operate for at least five years before they can establish branches here.

But foreign institutions seeking to establish new brokerages in South Korea must be rated above the investment level grade by internation-

al ratings agencies, it said. Restrictions on commercial foreign loans will be eased, but the ministry will also operate "prudential regulations and supervision 'on the maturity structure of foreign cur-

rency borrowing and lending. The package did not cover tight restrictions on remittances abroad by individual South Koreans, reflecting lingering concern about a

possible flight of foreign currency. South Korea's 34 securities firms are struggling with mounting losses from stock investments. Two firms, Dongsuh Securities Co. and Coryo Investment Securities Corp., may be shut by the government within a month unless they can turn their

insolvent businesses around. During the nine months ended last December, the 34 South Korean securities firms lost a combined

833.9 billion won (\$605.6 million). South Korea also announced on Monday it would throw open its oil refining and retail gasoline station markets to foreign investors ahead of its previous start date of Jan. 1.

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### Very briefly:

· Sony Corp. has entered into a licensing agreement with Sun Microsystems Inc. for the ose and distribution of Sun's Java programming language technology. The companies plan to support development of applications based on Java for digital home-entertainment products and networks.

· Australia and New Zealand are now seen as the Asia Pacific region's hottest property markets because the financial lumnoil in Southeast Asia has forced investors to seek new markers in the area, according to a survey by the real estate group Knight Frank.

• Singapore Telecommunications Ltd. is cutting rates on international calls from May I and will introdoce a new lowcost international dialing plan. SingTel, as the former telephone monopoly is known, plans to cut rates to 126 countries

hy as much as 22 percent. South Korean proseculors called for an extra six-year prison sentence for charges of bribery for Chung Tae Soo, the founder of the failed Hanbo Group. He is already serving a 15year sentence for his role in a loans-for-kickbacks affair.

 Arab-Malaysian Finance Bhd., Malaysia's third biggest finance company, has been given the approval by the country's central bank to begin merger talks with Abrar Finance Bhd., Advance Finance Bhd. and Sime Finance Bhd. Arab-Malaysian said it was responding to the government's calls for

Toyota Media Station Inc., a domestic unit of Toyota Motor Corp., will start a regular service on Wednesday of information for car-navigation systems by means of cellular phones. Drivers will be able to receive 24-bour information on traffic, weather forecasts and a variety of news.

 Dow Chemical Co. has reached a deal to buy a 50 percent stake in a plant in Ningbo, China, that is now held by Zhejiang Chemical Factory.

• Du Pont Co., unfazed by the Asian crisis, plans to double its sales on the continent to \$6 billion over the next four years. It has already made extensive acquisitions in Pakistan, Taiwan (Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters) and Malaysia last year. Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP

# IMF: Army of Economists Fights to Buoy Global Economy

### Continued from Page 11

13 stories bigb and three blocks west of the White House. Although a quarter of the 2,600 employees are American, the place has a distinctively Continental feel. That is in part because the managing director is traditionally a European; currently it is Michel Camdessus, a 64-year-old with a formal mien who previously was governor of the French central

The Fund's economists, the dominant force within the staff, consider themselves elite international civil servants. They fly business class, stay in luxurious hotels when on missions to foreign capitals and earn salaries that average \$94,000 a year. tax free. American staffers pay taxes on their earnings, but their salaries are raised accordingly.

The IMF likes to depict itself as the servant of its 182 member countries. Founded in 1944 to oversee fixed currency rates, it still functions today in much the same way it did then - as a sort of credit union, with nations depositing money that is lent to members in need. The United States has the biggest say in Fund affairs, with an 18 percent voting share on the board, and its top policymakers are consulted closely by Fund management

But while the IMF abides by the wisbes of its major shareholder nations, it also is one of Washington's most cohesive bureaucracies.

weeks of debate within Fund de- ments once a decision is reached, in

Continued from Page 1

loses out on, many temps say, far out-

weigh whatever extra pay they take

temp at Microsoft, belping edit its CD-

three-month contracts, some temps have

worked at Microsoft for more than five

years and have seized on an awkward

term to describe their awkward status:

as a tester for Microsoft in 1992, looking for bugs in the endless lines of computer

code that make up the company's soft-

the 18 people who run Cinemania and

Mosic Central On-Line, the company's movie information service and 24-hour

But he does not have the one thing be wants most: a permanent Microsoft job

Now a program manager, be oversees

John Schussler has received a halfdozen promotions since he went to work

With work lives strung together by

ROM on health care.

ware products.

partnients — spelling out what contrast with the more freewheeling policies the country should adopt. When they start negotiating with the country's officials, they are expected to stick unfailingly to this preagreed approach, to convey the impression they are certain of what they are talking about.

Even when they find themselves sympathizing with the objections said Laora Papi, who left the IMF in November, "So the organization is very inbred." raised by the country's officials as they often do — the whole issue has to be debated again privately

Critics say the IMF needs to move faster at figuring out how to cope with new-style investor panics.

with officials back in Washington before the IMF negotiators make any concessions

Disputes within the staff are resolved by Mr. Camdessus, or more commonly - by Stanley Fischer, the IMF's deputy managing director and a former economics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology whose intellect commands great respect among IMF staffers

But any debate still takes place within an extremely hierarchical system that, some analysis say, makes the Fund too rigid. Econ-The institution's discipline is le- omists from the World Bank, who gendary. When a team of econo- often conduct joint missiuns with mists goes on a mission to a troubled the IMF, voice awe at the almost country, they bring along a doc- military manner with which IMF ument — typically the product of staffers back their superiors' judg-

ment?" he asks.

bones health plan.

thanks to Microsoft's soaring stock

From the start, Mr. Schussler said in a

recent interview, he made it clear to

management that he wanted a permanent

job, known as "headcount" in Microsoft

jargon. "Everyone knows headcount at

But his managers repeatedly told him

that while they were eager to keep him

because of his good work, they wanted

Microsoft is the Holy Grail," he said.

TEMPS: High-Tech Firms Relying on a New Class of U.S. Workers permanent employee and can afford to Sharon Decker, director of Mihuy a house, and I'm still in an apartcrosoft's Contingent Staffing Group, de-

fended the company's use of temps, say-

Microsoft insists that Mr. Schussler's ing that many would rather be temps home.

"It's a system of having two classes of people and instilling fear and inferiority and loathing," said Rebecca managers and uses Microsoft equipment, and loathing, said Rebecca ment.

"There's a recognition that this kind of free-agent approach is growing people want to be able to negotiate their own employment, she said. "These own employment, the said of the said own employment, the said own employment, the said of the said own employment. workers like the flexibility. They like the He says he has almost no contact with Rho Tech, which deducts his taxes, ability to work for six months and then

sends his paycheck and provides a barego skiing. Managers argue that using temps is ideal for the modern market's demands Microsoft's temps may feel their con-tingent status more keenly than other for efficiency and flexibility. Many employees say it dovetails with their desire temps, largely because the software giant's well-known policy of giving stock for independence and for stimulating options to employees has made many of the temps' co-workers millionaires.

challenges.
Peg Cheirrett, president of the Wasser Group, which supplies temps to Mi-crosoft, said using temps in a volatile industry was humane because they bad no false expectations. When people know it's a temporary arrangement," she said, "some day when the assignment ends, there's not a sense of a

broken trust. Ms. Decker asserted that many temps earned more per hour than regular workers - an assertion many temps chaland the benefits that go with it.

10 fill the limited number of permanent lenge. Temps may earn \$18 an hour as slots allotted them with the scarcest testers and \$50 an hour as bot-shot prowho does the same work as me, is a commodity in high tech: programmers. grammers.

# The International Herald Tribune will produce a Special Report on May 2, on

# JROPE THE EURO



N MAY 2, European Prime Ministers and Finance Ministers will meet in Brussels to set the seal on one of the most daring and farreaching monetary experiments in history - European economic and monetary union. At that meeting, up to 11 nations will be selected as founding members of EMU and they will agree to replace their national currencies with a single, new currency - the euro - and hand over their monetary policies to a new European Central Bank.

It will happen gradually, with the transition beginning on January 1, 1999, and completed by 2002. The move will further consolidate Europe's single market, allowing nearly 300 million consumers to buy goods and services anywhere they please, paying with the new currency.

This Special Report will bring together the following IHT correspondents to offer you the most up-to-date and useful news, background and analysis on this extraordinary new turn in European history:

Tom Buerkle Joseph Fitchett Alan Friedman

Carl Gewirtz

Barry James John Schmid John Vinocur

Whatever one's views, the reality of economic and monetary union beginning in January is apt to set in motion a new dynamic that contains surprises

You have heard a lot from the politicians, but to help you get your own, independent grip on Europe's new reality, don't miss this Special Report on May 2, the day the crucial summit gets under way.

For a complete synopsis and information on advertising, contact your local representative or Bill Mahder at the IHT in Paris at: +33 1 41 43 93 78; fax: +33 1 41 43 92 13 or e-mail: supplements@iht.com



THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

# China Finds 'Irregularities'

In Statistics Agence France-Presse BELING — The State Statistical Bureau last year uncovered more than 60,000 'irregularities'' in data sup-

Daily reported Monday. In 57 percent of cases the figures were deliberately falsified, incomplete or distorted. In 18 percent of cases of-ficial bodies refused to

plied by official agencies or businesses, the People's Court

In remaining cases the statistics were exaggerated through inexperience or a lack of external checks, the

provide figures or sent them

bureao said. These matters will be treated serionsly," the bureau said. "Those who falsify statistics to obtain rewards or promotion will be severely punished."

In January, a Chinese vice prime minister, Zou Jiahua, warned against the fabrication of statistics.

Mr. Zou said the current data collection methods could not keep pace with the needs of a socialist market economy and urged "exact, complete, practical and timely" data.

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CHARITABLE FOUNDATION "HENRY DUNANT"

TENDER INVITATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF MEDICAL AND HOTEL EQUIPMENT

Athens, Greece

dation"Henry Dunant" with registered office in Athens. Greece (23, Lyka vittou Street], invites all firms or companies [Tenderers], local or international, to submit their Tenders for carrying out all preinstallation drawings and data, supply, installation, testing of medical and hotel equipment, for the

newly built Hospital Athens. The Hospital, with overall capacity of 443 beds of both In-patient and Out-patient Wards. covers all Pathology and Surgical specialties and includes a Special Care Unit, an Intensive Care Unit, as well as a depart-

ment of One-Day-Clinics. The hospital equipment is divided into:

ICU-SCU equipment

Operation Theatres equipment iii. Laboratories equipment

Medical devices equipment of clinles and departments Sterilization

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department Catering devices equipment viii. Laondry equip-

ment Hotel equipment IT equipment Tenderers must sobmit their Tenders within a period of 30

publication of the invitation, to the press. The Tenders shall

days, after the last

refer to all or part of the above equipment divisions and include foll docomentation regarding functional and financial tasks.

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B. Marina M. Hamilton

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1& A / Alberto Vitale

# Veteran Publish Views a New Bo

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Bertelsmann is a. good owner since. they respect publishing autonomy and editorial

fore the deal Q. What will Bertelsmann? . A. It is not so will mean, but independence. telsmann's strate son why this deal because Advant tions it at a general bunking of the future and they have decided from multiple with the strategy of the strategy of the future and they have decided from the strategy of the future and they have decided from the strategy of the strategy of the future and they have decided from the strategy of the st

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Q. But what will happen to the various that andom House?

A. They are not going to be to the what Bertelsmann has really being, you don't buy machinery or be made and if you tamper with that they assets, and these are assets that lor assets, and these are assets that go in all the second in the second 1 That is pure unadulterated nonsense to alin a multiplicity of publishing improved the state of t dEveryman. It is through these imprints that the

the care to our authors. Another fear of many authors and literary as merger will reduce competition and therefore advances. How do you respond to Hat? ons called you? They haven't called me, but they have

"Claics, and they have complained a bit and stor Competition for books, which is also nonsen imprints are there.

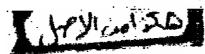
Yes, but with Bantam Doubleday and Rand the same roof, surely competition will be use li won't reduce competition but it may reduce to the same roof, surely competition but it may reduce to the same state pleasured.

by President Bill Clinton's former adviser Dia Our business is a crapshoot business. Frement with the Colin Powell book, everyone made a faces, and by the time I published it, everythe hot. And it earned.

AS - Australian Dollars; AS - Austrian Schillings; BF - Belgian Francs; CS - Cauadian Dollars; Dil - Dautscha Marks; Dix - Danish Kroser; Do - US - Dollars; ECU - European Currency Unit; FF - Pauch Francs; Fis - Finalsh Maris; FL - Dutch sFlorits; DIR - Indunesian Rupain; UF - Emissa Ira; UF - Luxamboury - Francs; p-peanor; MYR - Mateysian - Ringoit; Pias - Peachar; SS - Singapore Dollars; SF - Serisa Francs; Sat - Swedish Kronor; ThE - Thall Batte; Y - Yan;

a - Baked + Offer Prices; R.A. - Not Available; R.C. - Not Communicated; a - Steer, S - suspended; SS - stock Spit; "- SUPURISHEND: "- Ex-Pit; - 9 Offer Price Incl., 3% prefin. charge; a - Parie seaturgs; - Association exchange; a - may exchange of action; a - not registered; with regulatory activately. P: Middle of hid and offered price. E - activated action; sp price calculated 2 days prior to publication; z bid price.

What will happen to your own ride at the in Olson of Bertelsmann will take over as hand and chief executive and you will be change isory board. What does that mean? Who knows? It will all depend on the level of the knows? It will all depend on the level of the knows? It will all depend on the level of the knows? It will all depend on the level of the knows? It will all depend on the level of the knows bleday from 1975 to 1989, and from bleday was owned by Bertelsmann.



# INTERNATIONAL

# Foreign Companies Flock to D.C.

# Many Firms Sees Washington Area as an Ideal Business Capital

By Martha M. Hamilton Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - Despite impressive evidence that the capital of the United States is not the center of the universe, for a growing number of companies based in other countries, the capital region has become the center of 1. S. operations.

Companies ranging from Japanese Breadmakers to Dutch software-applications firms to European aircraft manifacturers have chosen the area around the American capital as their U.S. or North American headquarters.

Although there is no definitive list of such companies, Maryland's Office of Economic Development estimates that there are 150 in that state alone.

In some cases the choice was pre-

determined; a foreign corporation acduired a company that already had roots in Washington. But in many other cases it was an active choice, with the Washington area beating out other locations
— including New York City and California's Silicon Valley — for reasons as practical as proximity to customers or as ineffable as the quality of life.

Land Rover North America Inc., the North American arm of the British manufacturer of luxury sport vehicles, chose

East Coast for the time zone, and we wanted a good port of entry for our vehicles," said Joel Scharfer, the coropany's vice president of finance and administration. "We also wanted good airports, infrastructure, reasonable office rents and housing."

Shimadzu Scientific Instruments Inc., a subsidiary of the Japanese science of the street of the stree

ence-and-technology firm Shimadzu Corp., moved to the area in part because it had a distributor in Silver Spring,

"But the real attraction was the density on the East Coast of environmental labs, pharmaceutical houses" and other potential customers, said Gerry Carder. vice president for human resources and administration.

Shimadzu is in a corridor that has pharmaceurical manufacturers to the north in New Jersey and the National Institutes of Health to the south.

Baan Co. a fast-growing, Dutch soft-ware-applications and consulting com-pany, is a relative newcomer, just breakground in Loudoun County. Virginia, for what it describes as one of its "dual corporate headquarters." The other is a renovated 400-year-old castle

Maryland over New Jersey about 12 in Putter, Netherlands.

Baan bought 281 acres (112 hectares) for \$13 million. The site is a historic property named Janelia Farm that in pr cludes a three-story Normandy-style manor house that once belonged to the artist Vinton Pickens. Baan plans to restore the manor bouse and build a campus around a lake. About 1,000 people will work there.

The site in Loudoun County — 15 minutes from Dulles International Air-

port - provided a work force that was more attractive than that in Silicon Val-ley, said Kevin Calderwood, the company's president.
"The employee base here has much

more loyalty than the employee base in the Silicon Valley," he said. "There are so many little start-ups and so much opportunity there that people jump almost on a monthly basis. The demand far exceeds the supply."

Airbus Industrie moved its U.S. headquarters to the Washington area from New York in 1987. The European aircraft-building consortium had operated with about two dozen employees out of high-priced real estate in Rockefeller Center in Manhattan.

"At the time, Airbus was planning to expand in a number of ways in North America to be a stronger player in one of

the largest airplane markets in the world," said David Venz, Airbus's vice president for communications.

wanted to stay on the East Coast be-

cause of the time link with Europe, we

wanted to be in an area where there is

excellent air transportation, and we

wanted an area that would be attractive

for current employees and other em-ployees we wanted to bring on the payroll. Airbus now has about 160 employees at its headquarters in Herndon, Virginia,

and its spare-parts facility near Dulles, Mr. Venz said.

Rolls-Royce Inc., the British man-ufacturer of aircraft engines and engine parts, has its North American headquarters in Reston. Virginia, having moved to the area from Greenwich, Connecticut. The move was made in 1990 be-cause of "our increasing involvement with U.S. government programs and the fact that a significant number of other airframers such as Boeing and other companies like that had a significant presence in Washington," said Rober Baugniet, vice president of corporate communications. "They are our cus-

Some companies in the region were originally home-grown and then acquired by foreign companies. Vie de France was born about 25 years ago at a time when good bread was in short supply in the Washington area. In 1991, amazaki Baking Co. of Tokyo acquired Vie de France's food-service division. adding its restaurant division in 1994.

Q & A / Alberto Vitale

# Veteran Publisher Views a New Boss

The Bertelsmann media canglamerate of Germany stunned the publishing world last week by agreeing to buy Random House Inc., which was awned by the Newhause family of New Yark, Bertelsmann will merge its Bantam Doubleday Dell subsidiary with Random Hause ta create the world's biggest trade book publisher. Alberto Vitale, the Random House chairman and chief executive, who will be named as chairman of a new supervisary board after the merger is completed, discussed the deal with Alan Friedman of the International

Q. This merger will create a publishing group with around \$1.7 billion of annual revenue. How will it affect Random

A. I don't know that it will affect Random House in any way because what they have bought is our imprints and the publishers and editors, our back list and our capacity to attract the best books around. And Bertelsmann is a good owner because they respect publishing autonomy and editorial in-

Q. But it will create a monolith that some analysts estimate will account for a quarter of the trade publishing market in the United States. That has to have some impact.

A. The combined company will have about 10 to 15 percent of the U.S. market. Remember, this is a very large industry where the perception is mainly that of a few big houses like Random, Doubleday, Viking and Simon & Schuster. But there are thousands of houses that make up the bulk of the busi-

I should point out that while our sales have been growing in the last few months, our market share has been declining because with the advent of superstores that carry 150,000 titles

Bertelsmann is a good owner' since they respect publishing autonomy and editorial

independence.

each, they are carrying many more titles from many publishers. Random House's share was about 8 percent be-

Q. What will is mean for

A. It is not so much what it will mean, but what is Bertelsmann's strategy. The reason why this deal bappened is because Advance Publications is at a generational turn-

ing point, and S.I. Newhouse is over 70. He and his family are thinking of the future and they have decided from a strategic point of view they want to concentrate on magazines, business journals, cable and new media. At the same time Bertelsmann decided that books are a core area for their company. They already have 25 million members of book clubs worldwide, they have made a commitment to go to on-line commerce, and

so they bave decided this is a major commitment for them.

Q. One hears frequently about other firms being for sale.

Might other consolidation follow?

A. It is known around town that the academic textbook part of Simon & Schuster is for sale. One hears other rumors. I would say it is very possible that other consolidation will

Q. But what will happen to the various imprints inside Random House?

A. They are not going to be touched or affected because that is what Bertelsmann has really bought. When you buy publishing, you don't buy machinery or buildings. You buy talent

and intellect, and if you tamper with that, you are tampering with major assets, and these are assets that go home every night.

'Q. Yet with a giant like this new group, isn't there the risk. of authors facing an even more impersonal corporate bu-reaucracy than they already complain about?

A. That is pure unadulterated nonsense because we will remain a multiplicity of publishing imprints and houses. Knopf, for example, is a group itself with Pantheon, Vintage, and Everyman. It is through these imprints that we give tender dving care to our authors.

Q. Another fear of many authors and literary agents is that this merger will reduce competition and therefore the size of book advances. How do you respond to that? Have many igents called you?

A. They haven't called me, but they have called my sociates, and they have complained a bit and said there will be less competition for books, which is also nonsense because imprints are there.

Q. Yes, but with Bantam Doubleday and Random House under the same roof, surely competition will be reduced.

A. It won't reduce competition but it may reduce some of the crazy bidding, although there are still plenty of bidders out Q. You have paid high prices for some books, such as the flop by President Bill Clinton's former adviser Dick Morris. A. Our business is a crapshoot business. I remember when

I bought the Colin Powell book, everyone made noises and made faces, and by the time I published it, everybody said it was hot. And it earned. Q. What will happen to your own role at the new group?
Peter Olson of Bertelsmann will take over as bands-on chairman and chief executive and you will be chairman of the

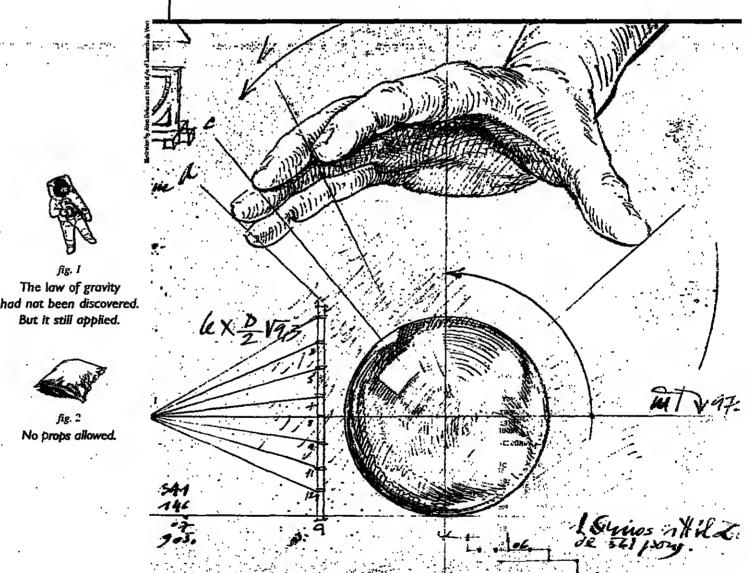
Supervisory board. What does that mean?
A. Who knows? It will all depend on the level of working ngeniality with the new chief and his working group. The supervisory board is a Northern European concept, used especially in Germany. In this particular case, it will be more of a strategic and advisory board worldwide. But I have a lot of experience with the new owner, having been at Bantam Doubleday from 1975 to 1989, and from 1979 on Bantam Dhubleday was owned by Bertelsmann.

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The mention of impact brings us neatly back to Leonardo da Vinci and the problem posed above which illustrates perfectly the critical importance of timing. At the 2.999 meter mark, the sphere is still falling, and is still perfectly intact. It is only at 3 meters exactly, without anticipation and upon impact with the ground, that the sphere finally shatters. http://www.paribas.com

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# SAUDI ARABIA

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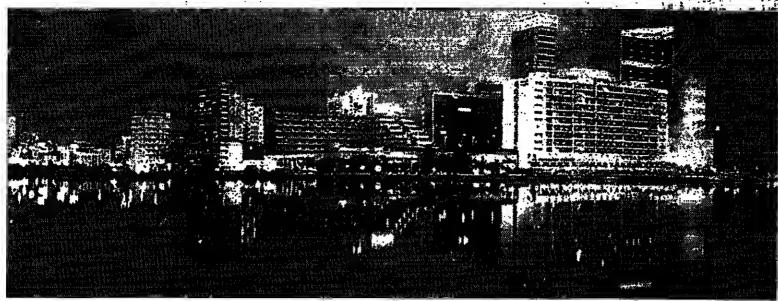
Falling oil prices across the globe made many a driver happy, but OPEC countries were hit hard in the pocket. As a result, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and lenezuela have agreed to

limit of production in a

market. At right, the city of

Jeddah glows in the dark.

effort to correct the



# OIL PRICES, IN FLUX, REQUIRE SAUDIS TO TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS

Saudi Arabia is on a strict budget to cope with a temporary setback in its revenue earnings. The recent agreement to limit oil production should help.

their belts. Oil prices have reached their lowest levels in almost four years: just over \$11 a barrel, the latest price fixed by the oil producing countries. In an effort to push prices up. the OPEC countries agreed earlier this month to cut production by up to 2 million barrels a day. This was the result of discussions among Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Venezuela about overproduction. Last November, the OPEC price was up the price of oil

Whether or not it will have any effect remains to be seen. In any case. Saudi Arabia's economic situation in the oear future will be tight. The country is likely to ask the United States for a contribution toward the exceptional costs of the latest military operation to safeguard Kuwait and the attempt to bring Iraq to heel over weapons inspections.

In 1991, operation Descrt Storm to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation cost more than \$50 billion. This year's exercise according to some military observers, has already cost 10 percent or more of that figure.

Contrary to the normal rules, world oil prices failed to rise with the prospect of war in the Middle East. In fact, the exact opposite has occurred. Saudi Arabia, which provides 25 price spiral; revenues are expected to fall sharply during the a loss of \$2.5 billioo to the treasury. first quarter of the year, to \$10.2 billion. According to the Centre for Global Energy Studies in London, this compares with \$12.6 billion during the final quarter of 1997. The center sees little chance of improvement in the coming months.

Retouling the budget

as octan in carnest at the start of the year. King Fahd bin oce-third of the budget. Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,

with the previous year's \$4.5 billion. The 1996-97 budget had benefited from higher than expected oil revenues, the "windfall" money that had helped to pay off the Desert Storm debts.

The slump in world oil prices and overproduction by the OPEC group - now at more than 27 million barrels a day-\$18 a barrel. The organization hopes its latest move to cut might force the Saudis to rethink their budget spending, surplus production from 27.5 million barrels a day will force already set at more than \$52 billion (8 percent above 1997's budget). The kingdom is beginning to feel the pinch. The current budget anticipates revenues (about 90 percent from oil) of \$47 billion, against current predictions of a little over

> At a recent meeting of OPEC oil ministers, Ali Naimi, the minister of petroleum resources and minerals, said he had decided to reduce production by 300,000 barrels a day. This will impose considerable restraints oo the government.

Shrinking sector

Henry Azzam, chief economist of Saudi Arabia's National Commercial Bank, expects the oil sector to shrink for the first time in four years. In the bank's latest economic bulletin, he estimates a 15 percent drop in oil revenues compared with nercent of the world's oil, is in the middle of a downward oil 1997. Every dollar fall in the Saudi projected oil price means

King Fahd announced in his budget that some \$2.4 billion would be spent on new projects: schools and colleges. general utilities (water, irrigation and power generation) and health care. About half of the budget goes to the civil service, the kingdom's biggest employment sector -- a sacrosanct area, along with defense. Although defense expenditure is Shortly before the U.S.-led military buildup in the Middle rarely identified in any detail, it is thought to represent about

Thus the kingdom is caught between a rock and a hard

Ithough Saudi Arabia is one of the most influential oil economies in the world, the Saudis are tightening their belts. Oil prices have reached their lowest levels amounced an expansive \$52 billion budget, with estimated place, with falling oil prices and a population that is increasing at a rate of 3.5 percent to 4 percent a year. This would leave a slightly larger deficit of \$4.8 billion, compared means the kingdom must find 200,000 jobs a year, many of them in the civil service. To cut, or even to freeze, salaries

would be courting possible unrest. One possible solution might be to put some of the projects on hold. Another might be to borrow on the international

Non-oil earnings

The government has made continued efforts to promote the noo-oil sector, which oow accounts for about 10 percent of revenue earnings

Exports of agricultural products to other parts of the region have been rising, and there are healthy exports of manufactured goods, including air-conditioning equipment, spare auto parts and electrical goods.

In addition, much discussion has taken place about privatizing and allowing foreign investment in the downstream oil sector and in new utility ventures. This appears to be nappening only in the telecommunications sector.

The Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu (RCJY), which was established 23 years ago to build the twin industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu, has devised a plan to set up the Utilities Company (Uco). The government hopes to launch it as a joint stock company with an initial capital of \$500 million. About 20 percent of the stock might be allowed

to go to foreign investors. The current economic climate notwithstanding, the loogterm prospects for greater industrialization, increased power generation and a boost in the manufacturing industries cannot lightly dismissed. Although there is a slump in oil revenues now, the Royal Commission continues to fly the anding geography and geology.

Michael Hanson

# NATIONAL AIRLINE RENEWS ITS FLEET

Should is the largest carrier in the Middle East.

and Arabian Airlines (Saudia), the national airline, is approaching the millennium with a new color scheme and a \$7.5 billion fleet renewal.

The airline's already extensive maintenance and training facilities are also the subject of major investment, and an estimated \$600 million is going into a new hangar and other facilities for the \$1 new aircraft.

The elegant new cream, white and gold aircraft colors and turquioise and blue logo, which shows Saudia's traditional palm tree and crossed swords, were launched in mid-1996. The five-year, \$30 million refit covers not only Saudia's aircraft but also ground service vehicles, offices, ticketing and more.

The aircraft deal -- one of the largest in aviation history -was concluded with the Boeing Company and McDonnell Douglas Corporation in 1994. It includes the supply of 23 Boeing 777 sincraft, five Boeing 747-200s, 29 MD-90s and four MD-11 freight aircraft. First deliveries are scheduled for

this year. Sandia's existing fleet has 113 aircraft.
Saudia'has come a long way since U.S. President Franklio
Roosevelt presented King Abdul Aziz bin Saud, the founder
of modern Sandi Arabia, with the Dakota aircraft that was the foundation of the airline. It is now the largest carrier in the region, with 11.6 million passengers annually (3.8 million international passengers and 7.8 million domestic ones). serving more than 50 countries.

In January 1997, the airline formed a partnership agreement with United Airlines of the United States to offer a Jeddah-New York service that connects with United's domestic service to Los Angeles.

Saudia has come a long way since U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt presented King Abdul Aziz bin Saud, the founder of modern Saudi Arabia, with the Dakota aircraft that was the foundation of the airline

Both Sandia and the country's airports are earmarked for privatization. Funding for the fleet expansion, however, is following the more traditional route of government borrowing in January 1998, the government signed a \$4.2 billion loan with a group of banks in what was the kingdom & first infernational sovereign borrowing since 1991. The balance of the funding is expected to come from domestip sources (e.g., commercial banks, government bonds).

There are other financial constraints on the airline's priatization. Saudia's domestic routes have been invaluable in shrinking distances in a large country. They now serve 24 destinations, but they carry a subsidy element that weighs heavily on the airline's budget. The airline has also been involved in long-running discussions on debts to local banks revenues now, the Royal Commission continues to fly the that are only now being resolved. Airport privatization is also foreign investment opportunity flag in a land blessed with at an early stage, though a cootract has been signed for the operation and maintenance of King Abdul-Aziz International Airport in Jeddah Liz Freeston

# Blue skies, clean air. What else would you expect in the desert? Wauld you believe, the fastest-growing industrial complex in the warld? Chemicals, plastics, fertilizers...all tald, SABIC's autput is running at 20 million tonnes a year and set to increase to approximately 25 million by the year 2000. Nat a bod track record, we think you'll agree, far a campony formed anly

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هدامن الأعلى

# SAUDI ARABIA

# NATIONAL AIRLINE REVEWS ITS FLEET THE BANKING AND FINANCE SECTORS HOLD THEIR OWN

Banks are now less dependent on the government and hence on oil prices.

commercial banks had com-bined profits of 6.55 billion Saudi riyals (S1.75 billion) - up from 5.72 billion riyals and the state of t in 1996 — although individual profits varied widely, from a high of 33 percent at Al-Bank Al-Saudi Al Fransi to a low of 7 percent at Arab National Bank.

Investment and service activioes provided the best returns and offset a general decline in interest income. The decline followed a slow demand for credit, as the govemment took advantage of high oil revenues in 1996 and 1997 to repay contractors and suppliers, enabling them in 1997, Moody's notes, "The turn to liquidate overdrafts.

for government revenues in confident of a good year. The recovering from problems." chief economist at Saudi American Bank (SAMBA). Kevin Taecker, believes the ing the last oil price decline

Islamic Financial Institutions

audi Arabia's banks "Then, we were much closer returns unless lending is enhave posted healthy results for 1997. The 11 loans; they have now some loans; they have now gone, and the hudget is much more under control.

Mr. Taecker says the private sector is healthier now and that diversification has made private business less dependent on the government and hence on oil prices. He points out that in the last two years, as the government has cleared up its payment arrears, loan balances have declined, leaving banks with fewer bad-loan problems.

vice of the United States sunports his view. In its latest survey of Saudi Arabian banks, published in December Saudi banking market has The current flux in oil been performing well for sevprices has changed prospects cral years and is reasonably mature. It no longer contains a 1998, but the banks are still large number of banks . . . still

Moody's Investors' Ser-

Moody's highlights three pillars of credit for Saudi Arabian banks: lending to gov-Saudi economy is better emment projects and paraplaced to cope with the cur- statals, lending to the local reot downturn than it was dur- private sector and retail lending. The report suggests that (1993-94). "In comparison the first of these is secure but with 1993-94, Saudi Arabia is offers low margins, while in much better shape to meet spreads on the second are thin the challenge," he says. — making it hard to earn good

> and banking practices. The banks also benefit from their role in the Saudi Arabian stock exchange, in which they have a share-trading mocopoly. Since 1990, the banks have been served by a sophisticated electronic (ESISI, and share turnover for 1997 reached 62 billion broad and are expected to riyals, a 144.36 percent in-move farther afield in coming crease over the 1996 figure and a more than fourteenfold rise since 1990.

and a low cost for funds.

pendent, which could trans-

late into enormous growth in

Overall trends for the sec-

bia is becoming an increas-

A decline in government rev-

drop can be expected to pro-

strong protection. The only

foreign banking presence al-

lowed in the kingdom is

through joint ventures with

local banks. The nine Saudi

Arabian banks that have taken

this option have gained easier

access to modern technology

The banks also enjoy

pel this process forward.

the banking sector.

Ten of the 11 commercial banks have domestic mutual & Development Company its global expansion. L.F. oping downstream industries.



In Riyadh, the headquarters of the Saudi American Bank (SAMBA).

funds that invest in local equities. A significant step tor are promising, Saudi Araforward occurred in April ingly "banked" rather than a given official approval to cash economy. This provides launch a London-based muthe basis for continued de- tual fund, the first time forposit growth, while privateign money has been allowed izatioo and other liberalizinto the stock market. Other ation measures are opening banks are now expected to follow SAMBA's example. more sectors of the economy.

SAMBA itself is moving enues because of the oil price ahead with an "Invest in Saudi Arabia" exhibition planned for the United States and Canada in 1998, with visits to Europe, Southeast Asia, the Far East and Australia to follow later. The exhibition will promote both mutual funds and direct investment in manufacturing. Bob Eichfeld, managing director and chief executive, has been an influential force

in SAMBA's development The SAMBA exhibition is part of a wider process of opening the Saudi Arabian economy to the world, which also involves local financial institutions' expanding their share information service presence abroad. The commercial banks already have a has grown rapidly. Turnover considerable presence ayears as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states open their banking sectors.

The AlBaraka Investment

(ABID) is actively involved in promoting Islamic financial services through the glob-1997, when SAMBA was al network of Islamic financial institutions associated with its parent, the Dallah Al-Baraka Group. ABID was established in 1982 to invest the liquid assets of its parent group. The group is an international conglomerate with extensive interests in finance, banking, the media, manufacturing, trade, shipping, agriculture and tourism. ABID subsidiaries are lo-

cated in 29 countries and have aggregate assets in excess of \$4 billion. ABID has played a major role in developing mechanisms and in- year. struments to bring Islamic banking and investment practices into mainstream banking worldwide. In December 1997, AlBaraka Group Chief Executive Officer Saleh Malaikah was named Deal- billion. Maker of the Year at the inaugural Islamic Banking and Finance Forum.

In January 1998, the Dallah AlBaraka group was given permission to set up a \$590 million offshore holdnew AlBaraka Banking group's worldwide network

# A PETROCHEMICALS GIANT **DIVERSIFIES PRODUCT RANGE**

Expansion projects have already increased production significantly,

ne of Saudi Arabia's industrial flagships is the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), which earlier this month reported improved net profits for 1997 of 4.6 billion Saudi riyals (\$1.23 billion). SABIC produces an estimated 7 percent to 10 percent of the world's petrochemicals and has become the comerstone of Saudi Arabia's petrochemical sector since the kingdom's export program began in 1983. Outside the United States, it is the largest producer of MTBE, manufacturing 13

percent of the world's supply.

"The power to provide" is SABIC's theme for progress," says the company's last published annual report (1996). SABIC plays key role in industrial and manufacturing diversification and is continually looking at new downstream projects in the petrochemical sector.

We conducted more than 150 feasibility studies last year to identify downstream projects. These studies were aimed at helping the Saudi private sector to establish industrial projects using SABIC's products as raw material," said Ibrahim A. bin Salamah, vicc chairman and managing director, at this month's board meeting.

**Boosting production** 

Improved production and expansion schemes, which came on stream in 1997, helped to boost production from 23 million tons in 1996 to 23.7 million tons last year. World prices for several petrochemical products, such as polyethylene, methanol and ethylene glycol, had improved during the

Hashim A. Yamani, the minister of industry and electricity and chairman of the board of SABIC, who announced the financial results at the meeting, said that earnings rose by 4.5 percent, to \$1.176 billion. last year, Sales rose from \$6.4 oillion to \$5.55

Mr. Yamani said that in order to make share trading and handling easier, the cornoration's shares - which had a face value of 100 riyals - were to be split in half, so as to double the number of shares to 200 million. A total dividend payment of 2.5 billion riyals - equivalent to 25 riyals per share ing company in Bahrain. The was to be recommended to shareholders.

Finally, Mr. Yamani said that SABIC had Group will control the achieved 70 percent "Saudization" overall in 1997, with some companies achieving a level of Islamic banks and will of up to 89 percent, and that continuing R&D and the remainder is experted to other Gulf open new opportunities for was providing valuable support in devel-countries.

Mr. Salamah said that the corporation had strengthened its position in international markets by increased production and diversification. Three major expansion projects were completed last year. These were SAMAD, which produces PAN (phthalic plant at SADAF (the Saudi Petrochemical Co.) and a methanol plant at AR-RAZI (the audi Methanol Co. I.

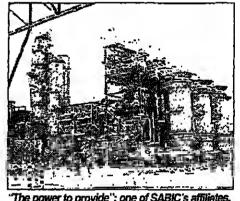
He said that SAMAD had also started commercial production of DOP (dioctyl phthalate). It is the first time that PAN and DOP have been produced in the Middle

"Over the next two years, several more expansion projects are expected to come on stream that will further increase our total output capacity and add to the diversification of our product portfolio," he added.

SABIC has fo world-class plants in Saudi Arabia, plus major investments in two altiminum plants and a petrochemical complex in Bahrain.

Many of its Saudi petrochemical operions are in the twin industrial cities of Yanbu and Jubail. These are giant industrial parks, prohably among the largest in the world, established by Royal Commission at the end of the 1970s.

Apart from the petrochemical complexes.



The power to provide": one of SABIC's affiliates.

SABIC also runs the wholly owned HADEED (iron and steel mill), which is the largest producer in the Gulf region. HADEED manufactures more than 1.2 tons of steel bars, rods and reinforcing products for the construction industry. Its bar mill is one of the largest in the world. Much of the production is bought by the domestic market,

# **AL-HAYA MEDICAL COMPANY**

h, left, receives the Deal-Maker of the Year award.



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Medical & Cosmetic Products Company, MCPC is a limited Saudi partnership with major shareholders being Al Haya Medical Company and the Aggad Investment Company.

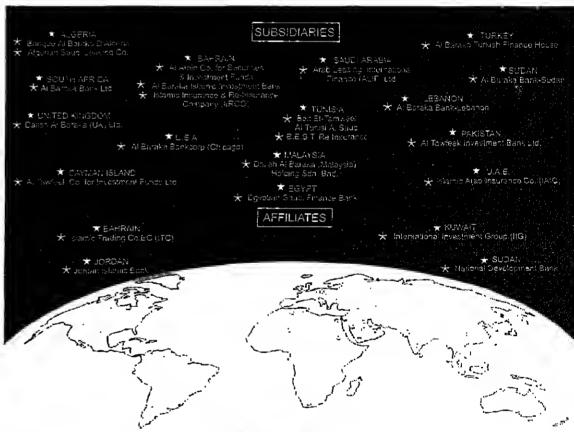
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The production plant is built to comply with the highest GMP standards. It has the capacity to produce more than 100 pharmaceutical items in different forms (capsules, tablets, creams, ointments, syrups, solutions, eye and ear drops, shampoos, sachets and suppositories.

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Established in 1982 to invest its parent Dallah AlBaraka Group's liquid assets in Islamic Banking & Investment ventures, ABID has risen within the past 15 years to become the largest group of Islamic banking and financial institutions in the world today. With holdings of US\$ 900 million, ABID's investments are in 43 subsidiaries, affiliates and other Islamic Financial Institutions throughout 29 countries

in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and North America.

The combined assets of the ABID subsidiaries, including funds under management, reached US\$ 4.4 Billion, at year end 1996.

ABID's impact on the global Islamic financial industry is formidable and meaningful. Its R&D influence in the field of devising mechanisms and instruments to inculcate the Islamic banking and investment practices into the mainstream of the global banking system is attracting international acclaim.

ABID's capability of reaching the summit of tomorrow's banking & finance is grounded in the Group's abiding Islamic values and it's financial expertise.



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# IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY CREATES CLEANER FUELS

The focus is on better refining capacity for converting crude oil.

improve production capacity of refined today's domestic capacity. products. The project also aimed to increase the added value of huge recoverable oil rebarrels -- the largest in the

world. In addition, the kingdom is the biggest oil producer and exporter.

Daily production today is in excess of 8.7 million barrels, but there is surplus capacity that could easily be switched on to provide more than 1.5 million extra barrels a day. The former oil minister, Sheikh Zaki Yamani, estimates that it costs \$100 million a year to maintain that extra capa-

Although the capital expansion program for the industry has been cut back. improvements to the great Ras Tanura refinery, one of

ahead and should be completed later this year. A \$1.8 billion project to upgrade the Rabigh refinery, Saudi Arabia's third export refinery (operated by the Greek-owned com-pany Petrola), has been delayed again. Because of world environmental demands

for cleaner fuels — particularly in the United has been installing more sophisticated tecbnology for cooverting crude oil, much of it as unleaded gasoline. In the oil boom days of the 1970s, little attention was paid to developing and improving refining capacity. At that time, the focus was on pumping more and

and falling oil prices over the last four to five

ive years ago, Saudi Arabia began a years, the attention has once again turned to → \$15 billion expansion and upgrade of the downstream side of the industry. Saudi some of its refineries. The project was Aramco has taken steps to increase refining scaled back, however, following the 1993 capacity overseas by buying plants in the merger of Samarec, the refining and mar-United States, Western Europe and Southeast keting organization, and Saudi Aramco, the Asia. Thus it now has a total refining capacity state oil conglomerate. The objective was to of about 2 million barrels a day, equivalent to

serves, which amount to about 260.8 billion barrels a day, Saudi Arabia has been pushing to increase its quota above

the 8.5 million mark. It sales to belp meet revenue

At a recent meeting of oil ministers, however, the government did an aboutturn and agreed to cut pro-duction by 300,000 barrels a day. Nevertheless, an additional production capacity of 500,000 barrels day is expected to become available later this year, when the new Shayba field comes on stream, but this may be offset by reducing production from some of the older fields.

These are difficult times the biggest in the world, have been going for OPEC, which during the last few weeks has been in disarray over its quota policies. In the past, Saudi Arabia has acted as "swing producer" to maintain the balance within OPEC, but this is no longer the case.

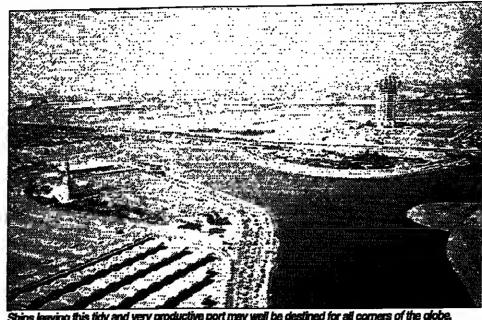
"We have abandoned once and for all the has been expanding along to of swing producer," said Ali Naimi, with them. Already one of role of swing producer," said Ali Naimi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, States and Europe — Saudi Arabia, along to the Saudi Press Agency earlier this month. with Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, "Moreover, we have established long-term Moreover, we have established long-term strong and reliable relationships with many customers in all parts of the world, which we market, NSCSA is now excannot abandon.

With extra production capacity ready to be route network. It has expanswitched on at the turn of a valve, Saudi Arabia ded links to Northern Europe could be preparing to go it alone rather than see other OPEC producers -- to say nothing of the With a massive surplus in oil production potential of Iraq — flooding the market and d falling oil prices over the last four to five breaking the cartel's own agreements. M.H.



All Naimi, minister of petroleum and

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needs to generate volume. Ships leaving this tidy and very productive port may well be destined for all corners of the globe.

# SHIPPING GOES INTERNATIONAL

Saudi Arabia has goods to move — and an increased capacity to move them.

attracting stronger interest for delivery in 1999. from international shippers.

The major alliances that dominate world shipping Chemical Carriers Company, have been expanding their services to the region, and the National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia (NSCSA) the world's largest operators of roll on-roll off (ro-ro) container vessels and a major panding both its fleet and its and the Mediterranean, roade changes in its North America-Middle East links and introduced a direct line from Singapore to the Arabian

crude oil transportation with the purchase of five very CCs), which will boost its Seapa has invested 30,000 aggregate VLCC capacity to million Saudi riyals (\$8,000

Times are changing for 10.5 million barrels. The million) to increase the num-Saudi Arabian ship- company also has three con- ber of berths from 31 to 183. ping. First, Saudi ports tainer vessels under conare being privatized. Second, struction by South Korea's Middle East services, long Samsung Heavy Industries. Seen only as an offshoot of The 4,400-teu (20-foot con-Asian or European lines, are tainer units) vessels are due

The company's 80 percent shareholding in the National which operates 14 vessels, makes it the world's secondlargest chemical carrier.

Keeping pace NSCSA's growth coincides with the rapid expansion of the oil petrochemicals sector and the steady growth of other industry. Government leaders recognize that Saudi Arabia's success in world markets.depends on its ability to move its products ef-

The government is also taking steps to improve the competitiveoess of Saudi Arabia's six commercial and two industrial ports, which NSCSA is moving into have shown impressive Port; the container terminal ment of the Saudi Seaports large crude carriers (VL- Authority (Seapa) in 1976. and the bulk terminal and

Seapa has invested 30,000 cargo terminal in Jubail.

The ports now handle more than 86 million tons of cargo annually and generate profits of \$150 million, while productivity has risen to

,550 tons daily (t/d) from

489 t/d in 1976. The growth of Saudi ports has taken place in isolation, bowever, neighboring states have also been investing heavily to expand their port capacity and quality. Acting on recommendations from Seapa, the government is encouraging private sector in-

vestment in the ports in an

effort to raise productivity and

improve competitiveness. Private companies can now take out 10-year leases for the operation, maintenports. In the process of a transfer to private manageand ro-ro and passenger ship facilities at Jeddah Islamic growth since the establish- at King Abdulaziz Port; the bulk terminals at Dammam;

# MANUFACTURING, A. GROWING INDUSTRY

Look for the "Made in Saudi Arabia" label.

ce cream, pharmaceuticals and steel structures are not items usually associated with a major oil-producing nation. But Saudi Arabia's small and medium-sized manufacturers are coming to the market with an increasingly wide range of products.

Although manufacturing is a very small sector compared with Saudi Arabia's massive oil sector or its rapidly growing petrochemicals industry, local manufacturers are finding a valuable place in both domestic and export markets.

The industrial sector now has 2,400 enterprises, compared with just 200 in 1980, and investment stands at 157 billion Saudi riyals (\$418.67 million). Some 70 percent to 75 percent are joint ventures with international companies. Chemicals and plastics make up 64.3 percent of the total, and building materials (13.1 percent), fabricated metals (8.7 percent) and food and beverages (5.8 percent) also make a solid contribution. The manufacturing industry is growing at a healthy

The Ministry of Industry and Electricity is supporting the sector by establishing industrial parks. The first three were built in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam as far back as 1970. and the network has gradually expanded throughout the

The Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu also operates two major industrial areas, which focus mainly on the exploitation of gas reserves and have light industrial parks.

The results are now obvious in Saudi markets. "Go into any market and you will find products in every category made in Saudi Arabia," says Saudi American Bank (SAMBA) Chief Economist Kevin Taecker,

One area enjoying rapid growth is pharmaceuticals. Until recently, more than half of Saudi Arabia's needs were imported, but sales are now worth \$750 million annually and are rising steadily. A number of new plants are coming on

Riyadh Pharma (Medical and Cosmetics Products Co.) typifies the trend. Its parent company, Al Haya Medical ompany (AMCO), has been a leading distributor for major international brands since 1967.

Riyadh Pharma's new 20,000-square-meter (215,278-quare-foot) plant in Riyadh will produce a range of products, including hard gelatin capsules, tablets, ointments and drops, all under license from established international manufacturers.

Mr. Taecker acknowledges that the industry provides a ance and management of small percentage of Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product - just 8 percent — but he is confident that the current heavy investment in new projects will ensure the sector's growth. ment are the King Fahd Repoints out that a rapidly growing population, which is pair Yard, the bulk terminals, expected to double to 34 million within 20 years, provides a solid domestic market for the building and food industries.

Said Al Sheikh, senior economist at National Commercial Bank, believes that cement and metal products, which enjoy a natural advantage thanks to the availability of cheap energy, are promising areas for expansion to serve local markets. He says there has also been a growing interest in the past two to three years in promoting export-oriented industry to diversify

# The National Commercial Bank - A Saudi Joint Stock Company FINANCIAL RESULTS (AUDITED)

BALANCE SHEET		(S.R. '000)	(S.R. '000)
		31/12/97	31/12/96
ASSETS	<del>.</del>		
Cash and balances with SAMA		2,899,160	2,620,947
Due from banks		14,144,783	12,678,095
Trading securities		1,320,500	1,314,678
Loans and advances, net		46,290,109	38,171,072
Investment securities, net		16,863,104	20,467,240
Fixed assets, net		1,702,017	1,713,133
Other real estate		1,030,880	1,033,182
Other assets		2,187,589	2,054,241
Total Assets		86,438,142	80,052,588
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	i		
LIABILITIES	FE	61 000 100	50.004.000
Customers' deposits	!	61,929,185	58,004,080
Due to banks		13,919,435	11,430,821
Other liabilities		2,802,766	2,962,847
Total Liabilities		78,651,386	72,397,748
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Share capital		6,000,000	6,000,000
Statutory reserve		1,761,695	1,500,871
Retained earnings		25,061	153,969
Total Shareholders' Equity		7,786,756	7,654,840
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		86,438,142	80,052,588
CONTRA ACCOUNTS		87,816,418	124,192,701
STATEMENT OF INCOME (ABBREVIATED)			
Operating income		5,675,283	5,320,304
Less: operating expenses		(4,699,710)	(4,351,223)
Net Operating Income		<b>975,57</b> 3	969.081
Other income (expenses)		67,718	(54,074)
TOTAL NET INCOME		1,043,291	915,007

For further information contact our Head Office in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: Tel: (966) 2 644 7979 or Fax: (966) 2 644 6468

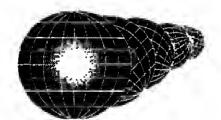




# investing future

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KHC's primary interests lie in banking, real estate, agriculture, entertainment, hotels and restourants, upscale fashian, retailing and supermarkets, media and broadcasting, tourism and travel, telecommunications and automative, computer and electronics manufacture.



Significant investments include interests in Citicorp. Ballast Nedam, Daewoo Carporation, Hyundai Mator Company, Soatchi & Soatchi Advertising, Canary Wharf, TWA, Norwegian Cruise Line, Disneyland-Paris, Saks Fifth Avenue, Danna Karan International, Faur Seasons-Regent Hatels, George V Hotel, Hatel Properties Limited News Carp, Netscape, Matorola and Apple Computers.

Bath within the Kingdam and beyond, KHC takes the long-term view in its investment strategy.

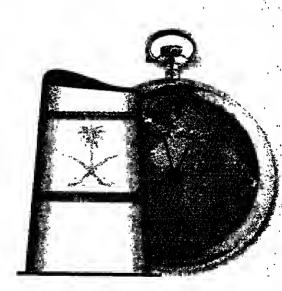
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Monday's 3:45 P.M. The 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.

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NYSE

Monday's 3:45 P.M.

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**EXCELLENT** WEEKLY SERVICE ...

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### Woman Wins Case

BOXINGAn industrial tribunal in London ruled Monday that the British Boxing Board of Control was wrong to refuse to grant a female boxer a license, rejecting the board's argument that premenstrual tension made women unstable.

The tribunal ruled in fervor of Jane Couch, women's world welterweight champion, who had accused the board of sexual discrimination for refusing to grant her a license. Couch told the tribunal she missed a £163,000 (\$273,000) fight last year because of the ban and may seek damages.

### No Tickets for Papa

SOCCER Michel Platini, the joint president of the World Cnp Organizing Committee, told an English newspaper Monday that tickets for the World Cup finals in France were so scarce that he could not even get any for his father.

"All my friends and family are annoyed because they can't get tickets," Platini told the London Evening Standard.

According to the Standard, Platini senior asked for 10 tickets for the final, hat received a polite 'non' from his son. (Reuters)

### The Splinter Remembers

BASEBALL Billy Crystal recalled when he met Ted Williams, one of his heroes: "I walked up to him at a card-signing show and told him I still had home movies I made of him striking out," Crystal said. Crystal described the day of the

game and the time at bat. Williams thought about it for a moment then

"Curvehall," he said. "Low and

### Tyson Joins the Show

Mike Tyson felt at home in his wrestling debut. He threw a knockout puoch, turned oo a one-time ally and made a lot of money like he's done in his stalled boxing career.

Tyson, who is suspended from boxing, was reportedly paid more than \$3.5 million for his debut Sunday in Boston as a "special en-forcer" for the World Wrestling Federation. He stood outside the ring, supposedly to help the referee as Stone Cold Steve Austin fought Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania

After the referee seemingly was stunned after being slammed, Austin pinned Michaels. Tysoo leaped o the ring and counte out. When Michaels argued, Tyson floored the wrestler with a quick right that seemed to fall short of Michaels' chin.(AP)



wrestler Shawn Michaels, left.

# WORLD ROUNDUP Pacers Way Off Pace With Only 55 Points

All Around, a Night of Awful Basketball

The Associated Press

The Indiana Pacers set a record for pointlessness, but they weren't the only team to play badly on a day of awful performances and dull games in the National Basketball Association.

There were 12 games played Sunday, and none of them went down to the final. buzzer - and only a couple even came

### NBA ROUNDUP

close. Lopsided final scores were the order of the day; no game was decided by fewer than five points.

The worst performance was turned in by the Pacers, who broke the NBA record for fewest points in a game as they

lost, 74-55, to the San Antonio Spurs.
"I don't know what to say," said
Antonio Davis, who made his first start
of the season in place of Rik Smits.
"Our offense just wasn't there."

The Pacers managed only 14 points in the first quarter, 20 in the second, 12 in the third and 9 in the fourth as they broke the record low (since the shot clock was introduced in 1954) of 57 points set three times, most recently by Orlando on Dec. 4, 1996.

Indiana was without two starters as Reggie Miller also missed the game. He was serving a one-game suspension for elbowing Charlotte's Vlade Divac.

"You can always say that Reggie and Rik weren't here," said Larry Bird, the Indiana coach. "I felt we could get somebody to step up. Maybe our bench is not as good as I thought they were." The Pacers shot just 27.3 percent from

the field, but they did not come close to the NBA record low of 22.9 hy the Milwankee Hawks in 1954. The worst offenders were Derrick McKey (1-for-11), Dale Davis (1-for-7), Travis Best (1-for-6) and Fred Hoiberg (1-for-5). Heat 109, Rockets 77 Dan Majerle

scored a season-high 22 points in 38 minutes as Miami won at home and clinched its second straight Atlantic Divisioo title. Tim Hardaway had 16 points and a season-high 15 assists, and Alonzo Mourning outplayed Hakeem Olajuwon in a battle of two of the NBA's top centers, outscoring Olajuwon 16-15 and outrebounding him 15-4.

Cavaliers 97, Hornets 82 In Cleve-land, Derek Anderson scored 16 points, and Brevin Knight had 7 points and 11 assists as the Cavs won for the eighth time in 10 games and stayed in the sixth playoff position in the East.

Charlotte had won 15 of 17, but was coming off a 133-96 loss at Indiana on Friday night. The Hornets shot 29 percent in the first half to trail 52-28.

Lakers 116, Wizards 89 Shaquille O'Neal had 33 points and 13 rebounds despite sitting out the fourth quarter

along with three other Lakers' starters.
The visiting Wizards (36-36) lost their third straight and fell a game behind Orlando and a half-game behind New Jersey in the race for the eighth playoff berth in the Eastern Conference.

Magic 95, Reptors 68 In Toronto, the Raptors set a franchise record for fewest points in a game and were booed off the court. "It was an awful display of basketball," said Dee Brown, a Toronto guard, "You know this team is terrible when those fans boo. They're great

Bulls 104, Bucks 87 Michael Jordan continued what might be his farewell tour of many NBA arenas when he scored 30 points, many of them with flashbulbs popping throughout the sold-out Bradley Center in Milwaukee. The victory stretched Chicago's winning streak to nine games.

Hawks 118, Pistone 95 In Atlanta, Tyrone Corbin and Steve Smith scored 20 points apiece as the Hawks reached a seasoo high in points one game after scoring a season-low 74 against Chicago. Grant Hill was ejected for arguing and said it was the first time he had ever been tossed out of a game. Suns 106, Grizdies 98 Cliff Rohinson

scored 20 points, Kevin Johnson had 15 points and 11 assists, and Danny Manning broke a 94-94 tie with an 18-foot jumper for Phoenix with just over two minutes remaining. Vancouver lost its 15th straight road game. Trail Blazers 99, Warriors 83 Isaiah

Rider had 21 points, including 14 in the

third quarter, as Portland won at Goldeo State. Brian Grant had 19 points for the Timberu ives 104, Kings 96 In Sacramento, Kevin Garnett had a seasonhigh 32 points, 14 rebounds, 6 assists, 4

steals and 2 hlocks Clippers 108, Mavericks 86 In Los Angeles, James Rohinson and Lamond Murray scored 24 points each as the Clippers snapped a five-game losing

76ers 99, Coltics 94 In Philadelphia, Derrick Coleman scored 13 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter as the 76ers ended a five-game losing streak.



Tennessee's Chamique Holdsclaw, left, losing the ball to Louisiana Tech's Monica Maxwell in the championship.

# Lady Vols Live 3d-Straight NCAA Dream

By Amy Shipley Washington Post Service

KANSAS CITY — The Tennessee women's basketball team finished a perfect season in perfect style by winning its third straight NCAA title. The Lady Vols beat Louisiana Tech,

93-75, Sunday to finish the season 39-0. Tennessee can lay claim to the finest eason in women's basketball history. Its record is the best ever compiled hy a men's or women's team. Only one player is a senior, so all the rest could be back next year.

The Lady Vols' three straight titles set an NCAA record and equaled the championship mark held by Immacu-lata (1972-74) and Delta State (1975-77) from the days when the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Womeo ran womeo's collegiate sports.

That's the greatest womeo's basketball team I've ever seen," said Leon Barmore, the Louisiana Tech coach who has coached 16 seasons.

On Sunday, it was as if the Lady Vols were determined to play the best game the "best team of all time."

The outcome never was in doubt, not from the earliest minutes to the end, yet the Lady Vols still managed to provide a captivating contest, one of the more fascinating blowouts you will ever see.

"It was a good game for women's basketball," said Chamique Holdsclaw, who was named the Final Four's most outstanding player. "Two athletic teams, up and down the floor, a lot of exciting plays for the people out there watching the game at home. It's women's basketball at another level.'

The Lady Techsters, officially the second best team in women's college basketball, found themselves trapped in a horrible dream. They seemed so often frozen, nothing but mannequins for Tennessee's highlight film moves. "I wasn't in shock as much as the team," Barmore said. "I would think

they were so in shock that it was hard for

those kids to get over it."

The Lady Vols have won six of the last 12 championships, all under Pat Summitt. Summitt oow trails John Wooden, former coach of the UCLA of all time to support their claim to be men's team, by four titles.

Summitt's team incloded two freshman starters, one sophomore and two? juniors — including Holdsclaw; who promised to return for her senior year.

The victory margin tied the secondlargest in history — Tennessee also beat Georgia hy 18 in 1996. The greatest margin was Tennessee's 23-point victory over Louisiana for its first title in 1987. That was followed by championships in 1989, 1991 and 1996 through 1998.

After 7½ minutes, the Lady Vols had a 15-point lead. By halftime, with the score at 55-32 — the 55 a title-game record high for a half — the only thing.

Tamika Catchings (27 points) scored on a lob pass from Holdsciaw - only it. was really a missed shot. After Catchings's shot fell, Holdsclaw (25 points, 10 rebounds) wagged her finger with her toogue hanging out of her mouth. After so many comparisons to Michael Jordan, Holdsclaw, who wears No. 23, even acted the part.

Summitt, meanwhile, paced the sidelines for no clear reason, shouting and signaling, telling her players: Don't let-up. And the Lady Vols never did.

# Leonard Saves His Best For Players' Last Round

By Leonard Shapiro

PONTE VEDRA, Florida — Justin Leonard is dangerous when he's five shots off the lead going into the final round. He came from that far behind to win at the Kemper Open and British Open last summer, and that's how he prevailed Sunday at The Players Championship, shooting 67 for a two-shot victory over Glen Day and Tom Lehman. The 25-year-old Texan also got a

major assist from the signature hole of this unforgiving golf course, the 17th, which has an island green. That's where Leonard lost his closest pursuer, Len Mattiace, who was only one shot off the lead at the time and coming off a hirdie

A groan of despair came from the thousands of fans watching that shot and yet another skulled bunker shot into the lake a few minutes later. When Mattiace finally walked off a green he has played hundreds of times, he had taken what the pros call a "snowman," a chilling 5over 8 that dropped him out of contention for his first tour title, cost him thousands of dollars and earned him the sympathy of anyone who witnessed it. Mattiace's birdie at 18 earned him a

share of fifth place and \$146,000. That was all the breathing room Leonard needed for his fourth tour victory and a check for \$720,000. Lee Janzen led by five shots after the third round hut collapsed. It started with

a bogey on his first hole and finished - with a 79 that left him tied for 13th at 3at the 16th — his seventh of the day.

Mattiace hit a 9-iron exactly the way he had planned at the infamous 132
Mattiace hit a 9-iron exactly the way he had planned at the infamous 132
Mattiace hit a 9-iron exactly the way he had planned at the infamous 132
Mattiace hit a 9-iron exactly the way he had planned at the infamous 132
Mattiace hit a 9-iron exactly the way he had planned at the infamous 132-

yard hole. Then he stood there with a .. Leonard was in full gallop almost from look of terror as his well-struck ball the start when he eagled the 526-yard sailed far over the green into the water... second hole with a 1-iron second shot to

PACIFIC DIVISION

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29 36 7 65 177 191
24 35 13 61 193 215
24 38 17 57 180 227



Justin Leonard, down 5 strokes before Sunday, ended up winning by 2.

within 12 feet. He took the lead with a 22foot birdie putt at the 172-yard 13th, then gave himself a two-shot edge on Mattiace with a 30-footer at the 438-yard 14th. He had a four-shot lead when he came to the 17th and hit a perfect 9-iron to within 10 feet to assure the victory.

# Devils Have Best Record But Can't Beat the Stars

The Associated Press The New Jersey Devils still lead Dal-

las in the race for the best record in the National Hockey League. But beating the Stars on the ice is another matter.

The Stars completed a sweep of the teams' two-game season series with a 3-I victory over the Devils on Sunday

NHL ROUNDUP

night. Dallas had beateo New Jersey, 4-3. in overtime in their previous meeting in January. The Devils are now 45-19-9. Greg Adams scored twice in the

second period as host Dallas stopped New Jersey's four-game winning streak. Adams had scored only one goal in his previous 16 games and has missed

31 games this year because of injuries.
Red Wings 4, Sabres 2 Steve Yzerman scored two goals to top 1,400 career points and move into 12th place on the NHL career goal-scoring list as the Red Wings beat the Sabres in Detroit.

Senators 1. Penguins 1 Magnus
Arvedson scored in the third period as
Ottawa, which hasn't won in Pittsburgh,
in six years, skated to a fic against the
Penguins.

Partitions 4. Blackbacks 0 John Vanhiesbrouck made 27 saves in his fourth
shutout of the season, and Viktor Kozlov',
scored twice as Florida won at Chicago.
Ed Jovanovski and Radek Dvorakalso scored for the Panthers, winners of

11th time this season. Flyers 3, Hurricanes 1 John LeClair and Danius Zubrus scored 34 seconds

apart in the second period to lead Philadelphia over Carolina. The victory snapped a three-game

losing streak for the Flyers and dampened the Hurricanes' playoff hopes. It also snapped a three-game-winning streak for Carolina and was the first victory on the road in seven tries for Philadelphia.

BALTIMORS—Purchased contract of SS Oz-zie Guillen from Rochester, IL. TEXAS—Optioned OF Warren Newson to Oktohomo. PCL. Acquired C Osts Trants from Philodelphia for future considerations. Announced retirement of RHP Jose Goz-

OF Hersley Meulens to Tucson, PCL Put, INF Andy Stankiewicz on 15-doy disabled list retroactive to March 21.

ATLANTA—Optioned 1B Randolf Stanon and P Padl Byrd to Richmand, (L. Put RHP John Smottz on 15-doy disabled list and LHP Padro Barbon an 60-doy disabled list. Purchased controcts at INF Ratael Belliand, RHP Adam Butler, RHP Dennis Martinez and OF Curtis Pride from Richmand, IL.

LOS AMGELES—Announced OF Billy Ashley has refused animor league assignment and opted for free opency. Put 1B Eric Karros on 15-doy disabled list, Signed OF Miles Deven

opinal for lice by service, Full is EIR, Maintenant III Service Berger B

MATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA—Optioned C Dominion Affier and
OF Hensley Meulens to Tucson, PCL Put,
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# also scored for the Panthers, winners of three straight following a 13-game lost three

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### SCOREBOARD

13), Indiana 49 (A.Davis, McKey 10). Assists—San Antonio 13 (Del Negro 5), Indiana 9 (Jackson 4). Derivett 28 35 16 24— 95 Afficate 37 25 27 29—118 D: B.Willicans 10-15-2 6-22 (Jurums 5-9-4-4 18: A. Corbin 8-10-0-4 20, Smith 5-11-9-12 20. BASKETBALL NBA STANDINGS RAL DIVISION 55 17 .764 49 22 .450 45 26 .534 42 28 .600 40 .31 .563 34 .38 .472 30 .41 .423 15 .55 .214 *J*57 53 17 .581 5 58 34 .528 16 37 34 .521 164 18 54 .250 36 16 55 .225 374 9 63 .125 45

D: B.Williams 10-15 2-6 22, Illumars 5-9 4-4
It A: Corbin 8-10 0-0 20, Smith 5-11 9-12 20.
Rebounds—Detroit 43 (B.Williams, J.Williams 9), Atlanto 51 (Henderson 12), Assists—Detroit 16 (Hill, Dumars, Stockhouse 3), Atlanto 27 (Bloylock 9), Orignde 17 (Hill, Dumars, Stockhouse 3), Atlanto 27 (Bloylock 9), Orignde 19 19 15 16 18—68 22—95 Tereste 19 15 16 18—68 22—95 Tereste 24 20, Walker 4-10 3-4 11, Rebounds—Oriendo 63 (Strong 13), Toronto 44 (AMiler 11), Assists—Oriendo 27 (Horper 9), Toronto 19 (Billups 4), Charlothe 13 15 29 25—82 (Charlothe 15 16 25 (Wassley, Philivelond 29 (Knight 11), Vanceuwer 24 28 24 22—98 Phoseix 21 22 23 30—164 V: Abdur-Rohim 15-22 44 43 0. Edwards 9-15 9-0 19; P. C.Robbrson 7-12 6-9 20 IS 0-0 19; P. C.Robinson 7-12 4-9 20. McDyess 8-9 2-2 18. Rebernds—Varcouver 52 (Abdur-Rahim 12), Phoenix 36 (Robinson 10). Assists—Vancouver 22 (Mayberry 5), Phoenix 32 (Johnson 11).
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SUMDIAN PRESULTS

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(Johnson 9), Milani 53 (Mourning 15)Assists—Houston 17 (Olajuwon, Johnson 3)Assists—Houston 17 (Olajuwon, Johnson 3)Assists—Houston 17 (Olajuwon, Johnson 3)Sac Archanie 21 29 28 24 14-83

P. Rider 10-17 1-2 21, B.Grant 7-14 5-7 19;
Golden State 50 (Dampler 111). Assists—Porfland 24 (Stoudamire 6), Golden State

S.A.: Duncan 10-204-5 24, Robinson 3-13711 28 1: Mattin 4-12-3-3 12, M. Jockson 5-14-6
0 11. Rebesses—Son Ambario 54 (Perdue

Washington 19 18 25 27—89 L.A. Luters 28 37 32 19—116 W: Webber 9-24 2-6 22, Howard 5-12 5-7 15; Lakers: O'Neal 13-18 7-72 33, Bryant 5-12 5-5 15. Rebarads—Washington 65 (Welface 10), Lakers 58 (CNeck 13). Assists—Washington 23 (Sirickland 9), Lakers 31 (Fisher 9). WOMEN'S NCAA THE FEMAL FOUR SUNDAY IN KANSAS CITY, INC. MATTONIAL CHAMPTONISHIE nessee 93. Louisland Tech 75 ICE HOCKEY NHL STANDINGS EASTERN CONFERENCE ATLANTIC DIVISION W L T Pts GF GA
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Peeter 7-140-0 15; 5: Williamson 15-27 5-9 35, Johnson 6-15 0-0 13. Rebounds — Minnesota 59 (Garnett 14), Socramente 47 (Williamson, Stewart 9), Assists — Minnesota 31 (Marbury 10), Socramento 22 Liofarson 6). Dallas 22 28 23 21 — 84

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First Period: Nane. Second Period: P.
Bornes 29 (Francis, Olaysson) (pp). Third
Period: O-Arvedson 7 (Gardiner, Van Allen) Period: O-Arvedson 7 (Gerdiner, Van Allen)
Overlime: Norn-Penotities—Nore. Shots on
geal: O-512-10-3-30. P-9-2-5-1-17.
Goalles: C-Rhodes. P-Skudra, Wregget.
Florida: 0-3 0-4
Claicago
First Period: None. Second Period: FJovanovata 8 (Ciccorelli, Whitney) (pp). 2, FDovarda 10 (Gergner, Kazlov) Third Period: FKazlov 12 (Dvorda) 4, F-, Kazlov 14 (Carlors)
felham) Saleta an enel: 5-12-4-2-5 6-11-0. (sh-en). Shots on good: F-12-6-7—25, C-11-8-8—27. Goodles: F-Vanblesbrouck. C-First Period: None. Second Period: P-LeClair 44 (Brind: Amous, McGillis) (pp). 2, P-Peter Perroe: Nors. second Perroe: P-LeClark 4 (Briark Amous McGlish) (pp). 2 p-Zehrus 7 (Desjardins. Podein) Third Period: Carolina, Sheppard 15 (Primeau, Emerson) (pp). 4 p-Podein 10 (LeClar) Stets on sook. P- 10-3-5-18. Carolina 10-11-11-32. Godlies: P-Burke. Carolina, Kidd. Burfalo 0 0 2--2 Detroit 8 1 3--4 First Pariod: Nane. Second Period: D-Hotmstram 5 (Miromov, Kozlov) (pp). Third Period: B-Audetta 20 (Hobingeri. 3. D-Yzerman 21 (Miccarly) (pp). 4, D-Draper 12 (Brown. Lapointel S. D-Yzerman 22 (Murphy) (Sth. 6 B-Kruse 7 (Ray, Zhihak) Shafs on geet: B 3-14-9-25. D- 12-14-12-33. Godlies: B-Hosek. D-Osgood. New Jersey 0 1 6-1 Dates 1 2 8-3 First Period: D-Carbonneou 7 (Kodne. Matvichulo) Second Period; D-Adoms 9 (Hotcher) 3 N.J.. Bodger 8 (Andreychik, Efics) (pp). 4 D-Adoms 10 (Carbonneou, Karne) Third Period: Nane. Shots on godi: N.J.-9-15-33. D-8-14-7-29. Godlies: N.J.-Bradeur. D-Belfour,

BASEBALL EXHIBITION BASEBALL

Mentreat 4. Chicago Cubs 3 Florida 13. Tampa Bay 6 Boston 6. Atlanta 2 Houston 10, Texas 5 Seattle & Colorado 7 Oakland & Son Francisco 0 Los Angeles 4, Anaholm 2 Cleveland 13, Milwaukee 7 Chicago Wiple Sox 3, Arizono 0 CRICKET

SOUTH AFRICA VS. SEI LANEA Sri Lanka: 303 and 122 South Africa: 200 and 226-4

WHAT MIDIES VS. INGLAND FIRST ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL BUNDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, SARBADOS

GOLF PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Final scores Sunday of \$4 million Players Championatép, played on TPC at Sawyrasa\* 6,950-yard, par-72 Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.: Justin Leonard, U.S. 72-67-70-67-278 Tom Lehmon, U.S. Glen Day, U.S. M. Colcavecchia, U.S. Loe Westwood, Britain 66-73-70-71---780 Scott Hoch, U.S. Len Mattince, U.S. 73-69-70-70--282 69-71-72-70--282 Payne Stewart U.S. 72-71-75-65-263

WORLD RANKINGS 1. Tiger Woods, U.S., 12.71 points average

2. Emic Els. South Africa, 12.12 3. Greg Nermon, Australia, 10.53 4. Oavis Love 3d. U.S., 9.41 5. Nick Price, Zimbabwe, 8.79 6. Justin Leonard, U.S., 8.59 7. Colin Mentgomerie, Britain, 8.48 8. Phil Mickelson, U.S., 8.17 9. Tom Lehman, U.S., B.12 12 Vijoy Singh Fit 6.46 13. Mark O'Means, U.S., 6.47 74. Scott Noch, U.S., 6.15 15. Tom Wotson, U.S., 6.13

### SOCCER

EPAMISH FIRST DIVISION
Catta Viga 3, Barcelona 1
STANDANGES. Barcelona 0 points; Real
Madrid ST. Real Sociedad, Celte Viga 51; Real
Betts, Athletic 8180a 50; Mallarca 49; Atletica Medrid 17: Velencia 45: Espanyal 45: Real Zerapara. Velladolid 40: Deportivo Carana 39: Oviado 37: Merida 34: Compostele, Sala-mana 14: Terrorife 33: Racing Sentander 32: Sporting Gijon 9.

PREMICH FREST DIVISION

Metr C Lens : RC Lens : S points: Metr 56; Morsedle 54; Morocco 52; Paris SI Germain , Bordeoux : 47; Lyun 46; Aurente 45; Bostin 42; Norics : 37; Monipetier : 37; Le Hawro 36; Strusbourg, Ronnes, Taulouse : 32; Guingamp : 32; Changange : 92; Changange : 29; Connes 28; Chateauroux 27. TALLAS FREST DIVISION

STANDINGS: Diversity 57 points: Inter Milon 56: Lezio 55; Udinese 49; AS Roma, Parma 46: Piorentifica 41: AC Milon 37; Semp-doria 37; Belogna 34: Vicenza 30; Brescia 28; Empoli, Barl 27; Piocenza 24; Alakonta Ber-gamo 25; Lecce 18; Napoll 12. MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

Dollos Z. Columbus I
D.C. Z. New England I
SYAMBINGS: Eestern Conference: D.C.
Z. Columbus S. Milami I; New England 0: NY.
NJ C. Tompo Boy O. Western Conference: Los
Angoles A points: Chicago S. Colorodo I; Del-ASAHEIM-Optioned RHP William Von-Landingham and RHP Anthony Chavez to Vancouver, PCL los I; Konsas City & San Jose D.

LETTON CHAMPIONSMEPS SUNDAY DI KEY BISCATHE, FLA MEN'S SINGLES FINAL
Marcelo Root, (3), Chile, def. Andre Agoesi,
U.S., 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

MOWEN'S DOCUMENT Martina Hingls, Switz, and Jana Nevelna, Crech R.c. def. Aranka Sanchez Vicario, Sp., and Natasha Zverava, Belgrus, 6-2, 3-4, 6-3.

TENNIS

ATP TOUR RANKINGS 1. Morcelo Riss, Chile, 3,445 points
2. Pete Sampres, U.S., 3,600
3. Petr Korda, Crech Republic, 3,443
4. Patrick Refler, Australia, 3,211
5. Greg Rusedski, Britain, 3,094 6. Yergeny Kafelnikov, Russia, 3.027 7. Alex Corretta, Spain, 2.703 8. Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, 2,663 9. Richard Krejicek, Netherlands, 2,308 10. Gustava Kverten, Brazil, 2,262 11. Michael Chang, U.S., 2,200

12. Karol Kucera, Slovakia, 2,141 13. Felix Montilla, Spain, 2,108 14. Cedric Pioline, France, 1,860 WITA TOUR PANETHON Morfing Hingis, Switzerland, 5,875 poli
 Lindsay Davenport, U.S., 4,148 3. Jana Navaina, Czech Republic, 3,810 4. Amendo Coetzer, South Africa, 2,862 5. Arunbu Sanchez Vicaria. Spain, 2,731 6. Monica Seles. U.S. 2,718 7. Mary Pierce, France, 2.690 8. Iva Majoli, Cracila, 2,563 9. Conchito Martinez, Spain, 2,514 10. Venus, Williams, U.S., 2,360

11. Nathatie Touzlat, France, 1,971 11. Irine Spirico, Romania. 1,929 13. Anke Huber, Germany, 1,878 14. Sandrine Testyd, Francs. 1,868 15. Dattinique Van Roost, Belgium. 1 16. Anna Koumikova. Russic. 1,544

TRANSITIONS RASERALL MERICAN LEAGUE

NNL-Suspended C Sergel Federav of De-troil for at least 2 games for checking Ana-leim's Jasan Marshall from behind on March COLLEGE
SAN JOSE STATE—Named Phil Johnson
men's baskelball coach.

BASICIPALL

HOCKEY

UC SANTA BARBARA Nomed Bob WESGITS

men's basketball coach.
VIRGUNIA—Named Pete Gillen men's basketball coach and signed him to 7-year con-

NEW YORK—Traded RHP Jurin Acreedo to the St. Louis for LHP Rigo Baltron, Released INF Joe Craulak, SAW DIEGO—Porchased contract of LHP Mark Langston from Las Vegas, PCL. Secret of the County of the Co SAN FRANCISCO—Optioned INF Wilson Del-gado. OF Jacob Cruz and INF Matt Howard to Fresno, PCL. FOOTBALL LEAGUE Arrange Marie Aller Arrange statements of the market arrange for protest statements are a second statements of the protest statements are a second statements of the protest statements are a second statements of the protest statements are a second statement of the protest statements are a second statements statement and statements are a second statements are a second statement and second statements are a second statements are a second statement and second statements are a second statements are a second statement and second statements are a second statemen LA. CLIPPERS—Put G Eric Piatkowski on-Injured list. Activated G James Collins from Injured list. FEAT THE PART OF SALES SALES AND PROPERTY OF THE PART NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

FRIENDSHIPS Appears every Salurday in market In advertise contact La-a Hanelip in only landon office. Tel.: +411714200327 Fax: + 11 [ 7] 120 0338 white the leaves of the office

or opresentative.

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# It's Time to Play Ball: One Big Surprise in the Predicted Finishes Brewers (!) The Choice

New York Times Service This preview was written by Murray Chass, who lists the National League teams in the predicted order of finish.

**Over Cards** 

### EAST ATLANTA BRAVES The

Braves have won six consec-

unve division titles and start the season with three-fourths of a new infield and a new center fielder. But the starting pitchers are the same. That is ill the stability a team needs. The Braves replaced first aseman Fred McGriff with Andres Galarraga, adding right-handed power. They let econd baseman Mark Lemke and shortstop Jeff Blauser go for economic reasons. The

only question: Can Galarraga

Coors Field in Denver?

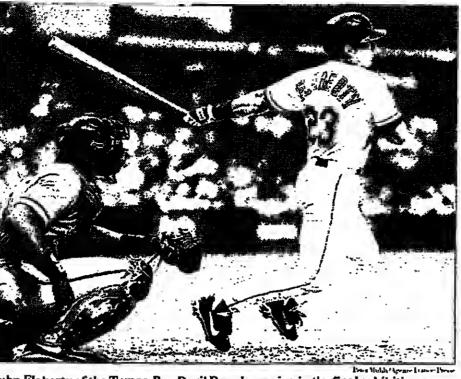
and to force same books. We man Maywell in the day NEW YORK METS This would be the year to have a work stoppage for a few Straight NC4ADre months. That way the Meis would not have to play without catcher Todd Hundley, their most productive hitter who is recuperating from el-bow and shoulder surgery.

Having enjoyed an improvement in their starting pitching last year, the Mets have strengthened their relief

FLORIDA MARLINS They won the World Series faster than anyone else, then dismantled a World Series champion faster than anyone else. Manager Jim Leyland, for whom the dismantling is deja vu (see Pittsburgh). points out that the team on the field is still solid; it is the pitching that will be a problem. The new staff leader is Livan Hernandez, the World Series' most valuable player. The four other starters have a combined six major league appearances.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES The Phillies are building with youngsters such as 1997 rookie of the year, Scott Rolen, and rookie Desi Relaford on the left side of the infield, Doug Glanville and Bohhy Abreu in the outfield last two seasons.

the Phillies' future because he agent. Chris Holt and Ramon



be as productive away from John Flaherty of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays homering in the final exhibition game.

hy surprise this time.

that slowed them last year.

ates five Mexican pitchers.

in the majors at 67, says he

likes having "the kids" on

have a healthy Barry Larkin?

with his left leg and will miss

a herniated disk in his neck.

The right side of the infield

has Bret Boone, son of Boh.

and Eduardo Perez, son of

Tony, but both must hit better

if they are to contribute other

But in their sixth season.

ROCKIES

YES, MAAH\_REQUEST PERMISSION

TO COPY ALL THE ANSWERS

FROM MARCIE'S PAPER WHILE

SHE'S OUT OF THE ROOM.

than defensively

COLORADO

drews and Rondell White remain. In place of the departed are rookies such as Brad Fullmer, Javier Vasquez. Trey Moore and Carl Pavano and several players with little major league experience.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS The Brewers coulkd win a divisional championship in their first year in the NL.

in the league.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS SI Osborne, open on the dis-

home runs last year. With the season following surgery for Cardinals, McGwire hit 24 home runs in 51 games, or one every 7.25 times at hat. If he had started at that pace with Oakland, he would have hit 74 homers last season.

Astros have Craig Biggio and and Mike Lieberthal catch- Jeff Bagwell, who have the ing. In the meantime they second and third longest playneed a strong offensive ing streaks, respectively, in comehack from Gregg Jeffer the majors. But they also have ies, hampered by injuries the a weakened starting rotation. Darryl Kile, a 19-game win-Curt Schilling believes in ner, went to Colorado as a free with playing 81 games at the Phillies' future because he agent. Chris Holt and Ramon Coors Field.

Pirates' run in the division

perienced, and some players, SAN DIEGO PADRES In like Kevin Young and Jer-maine Allensworth, can be better if they avoid injuries The addition of Jose Silva and Elmer Des gives the Pir-CINCINNATI REDS Jack McKeon, the oldest manager

The Padres also signed Kevin Brown, who has as

the first few weeks of this Barry Bonds had an erratic performance last season and still hit 40 home runs and knocked in 101 runs. This season he might respond to being slighted. When penple talk about unusual feats in this expansion year, they talk about other hitters, but not Bonds. That is an insult to an ego unmatched by his fellow players.

# Orioles, Indians and Mariners Again the Cream fector, who will be one of the starting pitchers. He will be under the intelage of

This preview was written by Murray Chass, who lists the American League teams in the predicted order of finish.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES The Orioles sport the No. 1 payroll at a shade under \$70 million. They had the best record in the majors last year and are capable of having it again. To repeat, however, they will have to overcome the depar-ture of Davey Johnson, who manages winners wherever he goes.

Ray Miller, last a manager a dozen years ago in Minnesota, was anointed by the owner Peter Angelos to replace Johnson, whose resignation was accepted in spite of the team's first division ntle since 1983.

The Orioles have several players on the bench (Harold Baines and Jeffrey Hammonds, for example) who would be in other teams' starting lineups. Joe Carter has supplanted Baines as the primary designated hitter. Cal Ripken Jr., 37, keeps going, with his record consecutive-game streak at 2,478 games over 16

vears. NEW YORK YANKEES The Yankees added Chuck Knohlauch, a leadoff hitter with punch, and now their lineup is as potent as any. A full-fledged comeback from Darryl Straw-

the last three) would add yet another productive bat. Pitcher David Cone has recovered from shoulder surgery, hut Hideki Irahu, already an enigma, developed a spring elbow problem and is uncertain for his

berry (11 games last year, 106

first start. TORONTO BLUE JAYS The Blue Jays, trying to beef up the league's weakest offense, will rely on Jose Canseco and Mike Stanley, a pair of newcomers, and Jose Cruz Jr., whom they got in a trade last July, to drive in enough runs until Pedro Delgado returns from injury.

Bnt Toronto boasts a pitching rotation that has the last two American League Cy Young winners, Roger Clemens and Pat Hentgen, and a closer, Randy Myers, who last year earned 45 saves in 46 chances.

BOSTOH RED SOX The Red Sox long pleaded poverty then obtained Pedro Martinez from the genuinely poor Montreal Expos and agreed to pay him a record \$12.5 million a year, Lucrative contracts ensued for John Valentin and Nomar Garсіарагта, though not for Mo Vaughn (three-year average of 37 homers). TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS The

Devil Rays, in their first season in the league, have committed significant dollars to such players as Wilson Alvarez, Roberio Hernandez, Fred McGriff and Paul Sorrento as well as a home town attraction, Wade Boggs, who needs 200 hits to reach 3,000 as he approaches 40. The Devil Rays should be bener than most previous expansion teams, hul they play in a tough division, so anything but last place would be a reach.

The team's future rests with the younger players. One of those is Rolando Arrojo, a Cuban de-

KNOW .. SHE

FROWNS

Larry Rothschild, a rookie manager, who was the pitching coach for the World Series champion Florida Marlins.

### CENTRAL

CLEVELAND INDIANS In John Hart's six years as general manager, the Indians have the best won-lost record in the league and every year Hart reshuffles the team. Four of the nine regulars are new, though one is old as well as new.

That is Kenny Lofton, who has re-turned to center field after a year in Atlanta. The Indians also hope Shawon Dinston, always a shortstop, can fill the hole at second. But more glaring holes exist in their starting rotation.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX By the end of last season. Albert Belle had produced 30 home runs and batted in 116 runs, but they were empty numbers. He had failed to give the White Sox value for their S11 million a year. Belle does not like to

The Crack of the Bat

By Dick Roraback

When the chestnuts are hinting of green

And the first of the café commandos

And the sound of spring beats a bolero

The sound that is missed more than any

There's a stirring down at Vincennes Zoo

And the kid down the half's getting restless

But the heart's with the Cubs and the Tigers

While a little guy chickies for cops
"Goal for us," "No it's not," "You're a liar,"

In the park on the corner run schoolboys

As Paree sheds her coat and her hat

Is the sound of the crack of a har.

There's an animal kind of a feeling

Taking stairs like a young kangaroo

Now the dandy is walking his poodle

And the concierge sunning her cat

And the sound of the crack of a bat,

With a couple of cartons for props

Then the classical shricks of a spat

Or the sound of the crack of a hat,

The homes of the Buc and the Nat

The rasp of an umpire's call

With the sound of the crack of a bat.

The continuing charms of statistics

But it's not like a rhubarh at home plate

Here the stadia thrill to the scrumdowns

And the chic punt the nags oul at Longchamp

Where the women are dames and not dames

But it's different at Forbes and at Griffith

Where the hotdog and peanul share laurels

No, a Yank can't describe to a Frenchman

Changing hist'ry with each strike and hall

Nor the half-smothered grace of a hook slide

Now the golfer is huffing his nihlick And the tennis huff's tightening his strings

And the fisherman's flexing his flyrod

Like a thousand and one other springs

Have a great deal in common, at that

But the thing that's not here

Is the sound of the crack of a bat.

At this time of the year

in this space since the 1960s.

Oh, the sports on both sides of the ocean

Dick Roraback is a former sports editor of the

Herald Tribune. His springtime elegy has appeared

Nor the self-conscious jog of the slugger

Rounding third with the tip of his hat

Nor the sound of the crack of a hat.

And the soccer fans flock to the games

Kicking goals a la Fontaine or Kopa

Away on this side of the ocean

Are moving outside for a fine

should be more menacing this year.

Jerry Manuel, one of two coaches who left the Marlins' staff to become American League managers, will also benefit if Ruben Sierra rediscovers the swing

that once made him a feared hiner. DETROIT TIGERS The Tigers join a new division on a roll. Last year, their last in the East, they improved by 26 victories over 1996, a remarkable leap. The next level, manager Buddy Bell-

knows, will be harder to reach. The league's best defense helped the Tigers improve, and they hope the offense is at the core of more improve-ment. One hitch: Deivi Cruz, the surprise at shortstop last year, is on the disabled list with a fractured ankle.

MINNESOTA TWINS Knohlauch has gone to New York. The team may go to North Carolina. For now, Tom Kelly's overmatched troops remain in the Metrodome, where they will fight to stay out of last place.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS Kevin Appier. the Royals No. 1 pricher, had surgery on a separated shoulder; last week and may miss half the season. The starting rotation was. not deep to begin with. The Royals, who may be sold this season. have had three successive losing seasons, finishing last the past; two seasons.

### WEST

SEATTLE MARINERS The Mariners open their season on Tuesday and Randy Johnson is scheduled to be their pitcher to his regret. Johnson wanted out months ago when the club decided it would not give him a contract extension, but no one offered equal value for the inrimidating left-hander.

The rest of the pitching lacks depth. The batting does not. The Mariners set a record last year with 264 home runs, and the fence husters are back except for Sorrento, who hit 31. David Segui, who hit 21 for Montreal. replaces Sorrento. Ken Griffey hit 56 homers. Can he top that?

ANAHEIM ANGELS The corps of talented young players like Jim Edmonds, Tim Salmon, Garret Anderson and Darin Erstad may be ready to take that final step, and a rejuvenated Cecil Fielder could push them to it.; Fielder has worked hard to show he is not at the end of his career. TEXAS RANGERS Even in the

many years he has been injured. Juan Gonzalez, has hit more home runs and driven in more runs than most players do who play the entire season. He missed 29 games last year and 28 the year before, yet hit 42 and 47 homers. The intriguing thought is how far the Rangers could ride a fully fit Gonzalez, OAKLAND ATHLETICS Ben!

Grieve, the rookie right fielder, is 21 and for real. In 24 games with the Athletics last year, he drove in 24 runs and hatted .312. In 127 minor league games, he knocked. in 136 runs and batted .350. The Athletics need something

exciting. They have also brought Rickey Henderson and his record 1,231 stolen bases back for his fourth visit. The A's also added a pair of veteran starters, Tom Candiotti and Kenny Rogers.

# Can't Beat the Sta

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passed up the chance to go to Garcia are injured. a better team as a free agent. but he needs help from his vision, anything is possible, their best starting rotation, be- regas, whom Colangelo made fellow starters.

vision, anything is possible, their best starting rotation, be- regas, whom Colangelo made even for the Cuhs who were ginning with Darryl Kile, a winner after he lost in salary

league system is, it has to start of people excited. running dry at some point. Six

DENNIS THE MENACE

\*Me an' Margaret were discussin' whether women should be allowed in combat."

PODOR

SOUDE

HERNUT

# (62 homers the past two years with Montreal). PITTSBURGH PIRATES The

race last season will most likely produce unrealistic expectations for this year. The Pirates will not catch anyone

### CENTRAL

Manager Phil Gamer will

not have trouble adapting to the NL style - run more, play for one run at a time - because be played and coached

Louis was undermined by injuries last season. This year, Brian Jordan and Tom Pagnozzi have regained their health, but two starting pitchers, Alan Beues and Donovan Mark McGwire hit 58

HOUSTON ASTROS The

CHICAGO CUBS In this di-MONTREAL EXPOS As so uncharacteristically active good as Montreal's minor this winter that they have a lot

They filled their middle in- year. of the nine players who were field with Jeff Blauser and in last season's opening-day Mickey Morandini, and ad- Rupert Murdoch, the new should put the best team be can lineup are gone. Only Mark ded what they hope will be owner really intends to spend on the field for the fans who Grudzielanek, Shane An- power with Henry Rodriguez wildly on players, as other will fill the team's new park.

**PEANUTS** 

GARFIELD

**BEETLE BAILEY** 

yes ma'am..Request permission

TO 60 OUT FOR A

DRINK OF WATER.

owners fera, he will have his chance later in the season when expensive player eligible for free agency become available. In the meantime, the

Dodgers will make Mike Piazza the highest-paid play-er ever and start Paul Konerko Then again, their starting in place of far Eric Karros, who had knee surgery last pitchers, who performed surprisingly well, are more exweek.

spring training - spring training! - Dave Stewart, the new pitching coach, fined a couple of his pitchers for fraternizing with the enemy before a game. That kind of stuff is unheard of these days but Stewart, always a fierce competitor, sent a clear message.

his team, but would it hurt to nasty an attitude as any pitcher. Tony Gwynn will attempt Larkin missed more than half to hit .400 in this expansion of last year with problems season.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS Earned run averages starting Jerry Colangelo, the team's managing partner, has won no with a 5 have become the Rockies' trademark. It goes friends among other owners with his winter expenditures for such players as Mart Wilthe Rockies feel they have Willie Blair and Jorge Fabwhose earned run average arhitrarion. with Houston was the

The Diamondbacks will be league's third lowest last among the top revenue-producing teams in the majors, LOS ANGELES DODGERS If and Colangelo believes he

I'M BACK

WHY IS THE

TEACHER

Frowning:









WIZARD of ID :\_\_\_\_









RETS GONS TO NESD YOU ALL! RE CANNOT ALLOW

### NON SEQUITUR

ok....ive got the work order here, AND I THINK I'VE FOUND THE PROBLEM. WHEN YOU CALLED TO ORDER A BASE DANCER TO POP OUT...









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BEETLE!

90





# ART BUCHWALD Calling 'Guns R Us'

killed in Jonesboro, Arkan-sas, and 11 wounded, 1 im-but at the same time, we're

from a source more sympathetic to handguns than the guo-control fanatics, who are trying to take away from us.

firearms

'What happened?" I asked the man on the other end of the line. 'Some children were out looking for deer and shot bad. some students instead. It hap-

"But apparently they wer-ea't looking for game. They wanted to shoot people."

"That's what the newspapers say, but there is always another side to the story. Look, nobody wants somebody\_to get shot with a gun. But we can't keep tabs on every child in school.

An EU Movie Boom

The Associated Press more popular than ever in wounded by what happened Europe, says a report that in Jonesboro." showed audiences growing steadily through the 1990s. The report released Monday by the "Would it n European Union's statistical to pass a law forbidding 13office said movie admissions in the 15-nation EU rose by 18 percent, to 702 million, from year they would raise it to 14-1990 to 1996. The biggest in- year-olds, then 15-year-olds, creases were in Ireland and and pretty soon no one could Luxembourg the EU's smal- carry a gun. lest nations. The Irish are the EU's biggest moviegoers, with an average of 3.2 cinema visits a person per year. .

WASHINGTON — We're certainly not going to make these kids who did mediately called the "Guns R not going to stop young men Us" hot line. This is where from defending themselves, if you can get information on that is what all this was gun accidents about."

> "How did the membership of Guns R Us react when they heard the news?"

"They were horrified. They knew that there would be the usual stink when someone gets killed with a semiautomatic. This was more embarrassing because the kids had all sorts of weapons. It makes us look

"Besides saying that you're sorry, what do you plan to do?"

"Raise dues from members of the gun lohhy. This one could get the public's attention, and the only way we can stop legislation is to plead for money to keep our legislators in line."

I said, "I'll say this for you - you're really on the ball. The anti-gun people haven't been heard from at

"That's why we get more respect from Congress. Every dollar we spend on legislation will protect an innocent gun BRUSSELS - Movies are owner from becoming

"Would it make any sense

"One more question." "Could I call you back? I have Charlton Heston on

# Seeking an Identity in 'the Immigrant's Silence

By Joan Dupont

PARIS — Yamina Benguigui, born in northern France, the oldest danghter in a household of six children, was raised in the Islamic tradition, and "in the immigrant's silence and shame." She has been trying to make sense of her identity - and of France's uneasy truce with a country she barely knows — ever since.

Her "Memoires d'Immigres" (Immigrants' Memories), a 2-hour-40-minute documentary, traces three generations of "Maghrehins," men from North Africa re-Michel Mitrani prize at the Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels in France and a Golden Gate award at the San Francisco festival; it is also a prize-winning

"Memoires d'Immigres" is the stirring history of a generation whose parents, never welcome, were feared and rejected when

their numbers grew.
"We're schizophrenics," the director said. "At home we learned about Islam, and at school we learned about the world. We don't have the same cultural codes as Algerians in Algeria - we have more in common with American hlacks.

Benguigui, who is also a producer, knew she wanted to he a filmmaker when she was 13. "But for years, I thought my story was about Algeria, I didn't realize that it was really about immigration. I know this story from the inside because our mothers perpetuated the tradition of repression: That was their mission, 'or France will eat you up.'

She was a quiet child. "Being well brought up meant not opening your mouth, so I observed details - this is what attracted me to cinema. We'd visit a woman who lived in a shantytown, all decked out as if we were at a fete. I loved taking in her story, the alarm clocks ticking away, the radio sitting on a little doily. I understand what the radio and TV represented for women of my mother's generation — a connection to the world. I wanted to render these details with love."

Benguigui, a dashing woman, wears finely wrought rings on slender fingers and tosses her long hair as if brushing away veils of the past. "Nobody wanted us to integrate, neither our family nor the French. We lived with our parent's myth of returning to Algeria."

She broke away from home early because and we were placed under house arrest."

of conflicts with her father. "Once I left, I opened the way for the others - my mother divorced and has another life."

After her baccalaureate, she did a stint at film school and then worked with Jean-Daniel Pollet, a New Wave director who makes features and documentaries. In 1994, she shot "Femmes d'Islam" (Women of Islam) and realized that the Algerian experience was not really hers and that while she understood Arabic, she couldn't speak it well.

"I thought I had come to terms with my past, but then I stopped everything for three years to make 'Memoires d'Immigras,'" "Maghrehins," men from North Africa reshe said, "because there are almost 4 million
cruited to work in French factories, and the
of us in France and we've never talked about families who joined them. The film won the our history: we saw how our parents were treated and were ashamed for them. I didn't want to be one of those shamed people."

She decided to shoot in 35rum instead of

video, and inserted reportage - interviews of ministers, officials, worker priests. "It's still a taboo subject so it wasn't easy to get access to the archives. I spent months viewing; you have to know what you are looking for, the alibis for packing people in 'transit homes,' the signs of contempt."

The archives make up the narrative thrust.

The heart of the film is in interviews with immigrants - old women; worn workers, singers, writers, teenagers — from the sub-urbs of Marseille to Paris. "It was a colossal joh, but I was driven because I knew this story from inside."

The documentary opens on the ranks of toiling fathers, imported by French anto-mobile plants as cheap labor, packed into slums where they reigned as domestic tyrants. "The section on the fathers should be called The Sacrificed Generation.' They were il-literate, they were violent with their wives and

children; now you can understand why."

The administration that encouraged immigration till the mid '70s never thought the families would settle: "They thought they would just disappear, die like rats. You can't understand what goes on in the French suburbs today unless you know the history. This came from Khomeim's Iran in 1979." is not a film against French society, but against a political system that keeps making the same mistakes.

Benguigui, who has two daughters, 10 and 13, is married to a pied noir, an Algerian-born Frenchman, from a Jewish family. "They came over to flee the independence, whereas my father came to militate for independence during the Algerian War. He was jailed twice,



A filmed interview in "Memoires d'Immigres," by Yamina Benguigui (below), a documentary about North Africans recruited to work in French factories.

She talks to her daughters about this com-plex history and solidarity with the women in

Algeria.
"What people don't realize is that the Islam we inherited from our parents had." nothing to do with today's fanaticism. Our fathers had never read the Koran. The fanaticism - the veil, excision, mutilation -

Benguigui will also be accompanying "Memoires d'Immigres" to Bonlogne-sur-Mer, where her father lives. "But I don't think we will meet. He told my brother that I had made a pro-French film." she sighed.
"My father was treated like an ignorant Arab worker here, but be is an intellectual, and I'm the one who resembles him the most - he believed in bombs and I make movies: a film is a weapon.



### **PEOPLE**



POP ON ICE — The singer Celine Dion being introduced before a Canadiens hockey game in Montreal.

WITH the full weight of 11 Oscars behind him, James Cameron, director of "Titanic," took a swipe at Hollywood's most powerful film critic. No critic wields as much influence as the Los Angeles Times's Kenneth Turan, who panned the most costly movie ever made and the world's higgest boxoffice hit. "It's time to speak up when Turan uses his hully pulpit not only to attack my film, hut the entire film industry and its audiences," Cameron wrote in a lengthy open letter to the Times. Turan had derided the movie's script as so bad "it almost makes you weep in frustration" and said Cameron writes the "lowest common denominnot going to fire Kenny Turan. He can say whatever he wants.

The body armor worn by Diana, Princess of Wales, when she visited Angolan minefields goes on display this week at a special exhibition at the Im-

perial War Museum in London called "Land Mines: The Human Cost." The protective vest will be among photographs and other memorabilia documenting Diana's campaign for a worldwide ban on anti-personnel mines, which included a visit to Angola in January 1997.

A Stradivarius once owned by the French violinist Rodolphe Kreutzer is to be sold Wednesday hy the London auction house Christie's, which hopes it will fetch up to £850,000 (\$1.4 million). Kreutzer, regarded as one of the leading concert violinists in Europe between 4 and 1810 had to their audience." The paper responded divarius violins, hot this one "is supto Cameron's hlast: "Of course we're posed to be the greatest," said Jonaposed to be the greatest," said Jonathan Stone, a musical-instruments specialist at the auction house.

> With a Puerto Rican flag draped across his shoulders and the audience roaring, Paul Simon said good-bye to Capeman." "If this is a failure," Simon

said from the Broadway stage as his cast whooped it up behind him, "what do you call a success?" The \$11 million musical, based on a 1959 Puerto Rican gang killing, played its final performance at the Marquis Theatre on Saturday night, just two months after its much-heralded debut was savaged by the critics.

Eric Clapton could become the Betty Ford of the 21st century. The singer has announced plans to build a 36-bed drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility, modeled after the Betty Ford Center in Palm Springs, California, on the West Indies island of Antigua. Clapton is which he is calling Crossroads and says is "a Robin Hood type of thing." Crossroads will treat local addicts for a nominal fee while outsiders will pay about \$9,000 for a 30-day treatment.

His mind and heart are on a higher plane, but the Dalai Lama's face is now appearing on U.S. magazines, billassociate the company, an underdog compared with Microsoft and IBM, with historic figures "who faced tough odds and changed the world."

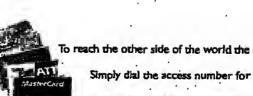
Pepe LePew would be proud. Skunk lovers from across the United States gathered in Angusta, Georgia, over the weekend, hoping their critters would win such titles as "frieodliest" and "most talented" at the 11th annual National Skunk Show. "We don't breed because we don't want snobs owning skunks. We want you to own a skunk because you love one," said Jane Bone, a member of Skunks as Pets.

**.** □. John Major, the former British prime minister, is worth more to advertisers than the supermodels Naomi Campbell or Kate Moss. The Daily

Telegraph reported that he can command up to £100,000 (\$165,000) for an advertising endorsement, higher than the two British models. Major reportedly had been offered that hy the ad agency Saatchi to endorse The Independent newspaper in a 30-second television spot. He turned the offer down.

A court in Tokyo has ordered the recall of a book based on letters written by the late Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima that described his homosexual relationship with a younger man. At the request of the family of Japan's most controversial post-World War II author, the Toky o District Court ruled that ever personal letters are literary works that must be protected by copyright. The book, "Mishima Yukio: Tsurugi to was written Fukushima. It contains 15 letters sent to him hy the novelist from 1962 to 1967. Mishima committed suicide in 1970 at 45 after storming into military headquarters in an attempt to provoke a coup that would lead to rearmament.





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